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THE HISTORY OF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL,
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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by

Brother Evan, S.C.

May 1954

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CHAPTER TWO

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CHAPTER I

EARLY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS CONNECTED WITH ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BATON ROUGE

Before attempting to trace the educational foundations leading to the establishment of what is now Catholic High School, it is only proper that the colorful and romantic history of the city of Baton Rouge, so intimately connected with the very grounds upon which the school now stands, be discussed briefly. This brief history will serve as an appropriate background and setting for the account to follow.

EARLY BATON ROUGE

The exploration of the Mississippi River valley by Robert Cavellier de La Salle opened to the French in the 1680's, a vast new territory in the North American Continent. The colonizing of this valley was due to the efforts of de La Salle. La Salle's own efforts at planting colonies in this region were doomed to failure, but the work was taken up anew by Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville. This intrepid sailor became the colonizer of Louisiana.¹

Iberville undertook to journey up the great river and select sites for colonization in the name of the French King. On March 17, 1699,

¹Andrew C. Albrecht, "The Origin and Early Settlement of Baton Rouge, Louisiana," Louisiana Historical Quarterly, 28:7-8, January, 1945.

he reached the first highlands above the Gulf of Mexico. Iberville in his log book made the first unmistakable reference to the Baton Rouge site. As to the naming of Baton Rouge, there are two well-known stories. The first, from Iberville's journey up the Mississippi, told of sighting a pole or totem, painted red and decorated with the heads of bears and fish, possibly symbolic of the Indians' sacrifice to the great Father of Waters. This pole might well have been the boundary mark between the Houma and Bayougoula Indians.²

Le Page du Pratz, who ascended the river in 1720, mentioned in his journey that Baton Rouge was "east of the river and one might see the famous cypress out of which a boat builder could build two boats, one of sixteen tons and the other of fourteen tons." His words in regard to the name of the site are as follows:

As the cypress is a red wood, one of the first explorers took it into his head to say that this tree would make a beautiful baton; hence it was called Baton Rouge; its height has not yet been measured; it is lost to view.³

Other names have been given to the city by the French, the English, and the Spanish, but unsuccessfully. According to Father Gassler's account, the Indian guides in Iberville's journeying party termed the pole "Istre' cuma" which was translated by the French into the equivalent, "Baton Rouge."⁴

²Albrecht, op. cit., p. 8-32.

³Charles Gayarre, Histoire de la Louisiane (Nouvelle Orleans: Magne and Weiss, 1847), Vol. 2, p. 134.

⁴Francis L. Gassler, History of St. Joseph's Church (Marrero: The Hope Haven Press, 1943), p. 3.

Baton Rouge was founded early in the French Colonial Period, but its development was slow. The city grew up about the post established by the French in 1720, in the person of Sieur Diron d'Artaguetto. D'Artaguetto had received the land from John Law's Mississippi Company.⁵ After the death of d'Artaguetto, the French established a permanent military post at the present locale of the old barracks, west of the new state capitol. The French maintained a garrison here from 1718 until the Treaty of Paris in 1763, when the English gained control. It was during d'Artaguetto's time that Baton Rouge was known as Dironbourg. From an entry in Diron d'Artaguetto's Journal, December 31, 1722, there is the statement: "We set sail at day-break and came to Dironbourg"⁶

With the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Baton Rouge, called New Richmond by the English Commander, came under English control.⁷ Baton Rouge remained under the British flag for sixteen years and was England's most important military post on the Mississippi River. It is interesting to note that England gained control of all the French lands east of the Mississippi with the exception of New Orleans, and that Spain, through a secret agreement with Louis XV of France, received the remainder of French Louisiana.⁸

⁵Albrecht, op. cit., p. 58.

⁶Ibid., p. 60.

⁷Ibid., p. 63.

⁸Cayatte, op. cit., pp. 100-101.

During the Revolutionary War which shortly followed the Treaty of Paris, the French and Spanish sided with the American cause, as Great Britain had always been a stumbling block in their paths of discovery and exploration. Governor Galvez of New Orleans set out to do away with the British military posts on the Mississippi. On September 21, 1779, Galvez captured Baton Rouge, which was under the command of Britain's Colonel Dickson. At the same time the fort at Natchez was turned over to the Spanish, and, shortly afterwards, Galvez captured the remainder of British posts on the lower Mississippi.⁹

Hence, on September 21, 1779, the Spanish flag was raised over Baton Rouge. Spain controlled this area for the next thirty years. The fort at Baton Rouge became known at this time as Fort San Carlos.¹⁰ It was during the Spanish regime that Baton Rouge took the form of a city. Much of the land pattern developed at that time has remained to the present day. Antonio de Gras received quite an allotment in land grants from the Spanish King and with these he laid the plans for the city of Baton Rouge, called San Carlos by the Spanish.¹¹

De Gras' lands, as far as the records show, were military reservation grounds, known as Fort San Carlos. The public square as laid

⁹Charles Gayarre, History of Louisiana. "The Spanish Domination" (New York: Redfield Company, 1854), p. 159.

¹⁰Albert Phelps, Louisiana, A Record of Expansion (Boston, Houghton, Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press Cambridge, 1905), p. 145.

¹¹Cassler, op. cit., p. 12.

out by de Gras was located at the intersection of what is now Main and Fourth Streets. It is interesting to note that the four corners of this intersection, once known as the public square, are to this day, unoccupied.¹² Antonio de Gras donated part of his land for the construction of a Catholic Church and cemetery. The land for the cemetery of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, as the original Catholic Church was called was a two and a half acre plot of land situated at the present north-west corner of North and Fifth Streets.¹³ It is this piece of land that is so intimately connected with the present Catholic High School, as the school now stands on that piece of property.

Spanish control of the West Floridas, which contained Baton Rouge, lasted until 1810, when it was wrested from their hands by an independent party of Americans under Colonel Philomax Thomas.¹⁴ The official record of the post as compiled in the United States War Department is as follows

On the Louisiana purchase of 1803, the Baton Rouge district was not included in the cession to the United States, but remained a part of the Spanish province of West Florida, to the great disappointment and discontent of its inhabitants. Several attempts were made by them to throw off the Spanish yoke, always attended with severe consequences. In 1805 the post was strengthened by 300 additional troops from Havana, under the personal command of Governor Grandpre and this show of force enabled him to maintain a footing in the midst of a people hostile to his authority for the following five years. In the summer of 1810 an expedition of "Patriots" was organized, who rendezvoused near St. Francisville and advanced against the Spanish Fort, then garrisoned by Grandpre with 150 men.

¹²Tintado Papers 8, 1809-1817, Survey of the Federal Archives in Louisiana, Book XI, pp. 232-233.

¹³Gassler, op. cit., p. 13.

¹⁴Phelps, op. cit., p. 249.

At the first assault Grandpre was shot down, when the garrison threw down their arms and surrendered. A few months later the United States took possession of West Florida, and Baton Rouge, among other parishes of that locality, was annexed to the territory of Orleans.¹⁵

The formal reception of the Floridas by the United States from Spain came about by a treaty in 1819.¹⁶

On April 30, 1812, Louisiana officially entered the Union as a state.¹⁷ Four years later, on January 16, 1816, the Louisiana Legislature passed an act providing that:

All free white male persons above the age of 21 years who are freeholders, householders or land owners, within the following limits, to wit: From the mouth of the Bayou at the upper part of Baton Rouge (called Garcia's Bayou) and extending on the main branch of the said Bayou to the distance of 40 arpents from the Mississippi, and below commencing at the Mississippi on the town line of the tract of land claimed by Madame Marion and pursuing the direction of said line to the distance of 40 arpents from the Mississippi, are hereby authorized to meet and select five aldermen annually¹⁸

By this Act, Baton Rouge received its first charter of incorporation as an American town. In 1847, the legislature passed an act which provided that Baton Rouge should become the Capital of Louisiana and appropriated \$100,000.00 for the construction of a building therefor. The Capital was

¹⁵Walter L. Fleming, Louisiana State University, 1860-1896 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1936), p. 438, citing United States War Department, Baton Rouge Military Reservation.

¹⁶Alcee Fortier, A History of Louisiana (New York: Goupil and Company, 1904), p. 275.

¹⁷Phelps, op. cit., p. 250.

¹⁸Louisiana Acts, 3 Legis., I Session, (1816), p. 12.

moved to Baton Rouge in 1849.¹⁹ On January 26, 1861, a special convention met in Baton Rouge and the ordinance of secession was carried by a vote of 113 to 17.²⁰ "A state flag was adopted and unfurled at Baton Rouge."²¹ Baton Rouge was in Confederate power for a little more than a year when the city was captured by the Federal Army in May, 1862, and the United States once more raised the American flag over the city.²²

The Federal forces took over the entire military reservation in Baton Rouge, including the old cemetery of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, most of the bodies having long since been removed.²³ The property of the military reservation included all of the grounds of the present State Capitol, from Capitol Lake to North Street and from Third Street to Fifth Street, excluding approximately one acre of land on the corner of Third and North Streets. In July, 1886 the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University accepted the donation of the property from the Federal Government, with provisions that the University should insure the property and keep it in repair, and that the property would again come under the control of the Federal Government "if it ceased to be used

¹⁹Ibid., 1st Legis., 2nd Session, (1847), p. 6.

²⁰Official Journal of the Proceedings of the Louisiana State Convention, 1861, p. 17.

²¹Phelps, op. cit., p. 306.

²²Robert J. Aertker, A Social History of Baton Rouge During the Civil War and Early Reconstruction, (unpublished Master's thesis, Louisiana State University, 1947), p. 22.

²³Gassler, op. cit., p. 65.

for educational purposes or if it were needed by the War Department."²⁴
The University was built on that site.

This brief account of the story of Baton Rouge with its many flags, and in particular referring to the grounds of the military reservation of Baton Rouge, on a part of which the Catholic High School now stands, gives the school's property a wealthy heritage in historical Louisiana, a heritage possibly unparalleled in the state.

EDUCATION AND ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

The first Catholic school operated in Baton Rouge was opened the same year that Baton Rouge was selected as the site of the capital of Louisiana in 1847. St. Joseph's Catholic Church had long desired Catholic schools to care for its children. This desire was realized when St. Mary's Academy opened its doors in Baton Rouge in 1847.²⁵

St. Mary's Academy. St. Mary's Academy was opened during the pastorate of Father Martin.²⁶ Bishop Bland of New Orleans, a former pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Baton Rouge, knowing the eagerness with which the Catholics of Baton Rouge awaited a Catholic school, was instrumental in sending two Sisters of Charity to open a school, to be

²⁴Fleming, op. cit., p. 434.

²⁵Cassler, op. cit., p. 62.

²⁶Ibid., p. 62.

known as St. Mary's Academy.²⁷ In September, 1847, the Gazette announced the opening of the school as a select school for girls that would teach all branches of a good education.²⁸ Pupils of all denominations were admitted and the course of instruction included: English, French, reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, history, philosophy, astronomy, bookkeeping, together with sundry ornamental branches. Tuition in the elementary classes was \$6.00 a month and in the advanced classes \$9.00 a month.²⁹ The residence of Mr. T. G. Morgan, located on what is now Florida and Fourth Streets, was used as a temporary school.³⁰

Three Sisters of Charity, in the persons of Sister Rosina and Sister Reine came to Baton Rouge with Sister Margaret Culley, as superior.³¹ In an account of the early days of the academy written by Sister Rosina, she states the following:

Our first house was a cottage quite near the river and the State House, which was then being built. We had a full school, nearly all the pupils paid well. . . and as the school increased, we got another companion, Sister Clothilda Conway.³²

Sister Rosina's account records the story of the great plague of

²⁷St. Mary's Academy. Account by Sister Rosina, in the Archives of St. Joseph's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

²⁸News item in the Baton Rouge Gazette, September 4, 1847.

²⁹St. Mary's Academy, loc. cit.

³⁰James W. Mobley, The Academy Movement in Louisiana, (unpublished Master's thesis, Louisiana State University, 1931), p. 71.

³¹Sister M. Veronica Kelly, A Century of Catholic Education in Baton Rouge, (unpublished Master's thesis, Catholic University of America, 1947), p. 11.

³²St. Mary's Academy, loc. cit.

yellow fever which began to rage in New Orleans and spread to Baton Rouge. All in the little community fell victims to the plague, though only one, Sister Reine, did not recover.³³ With the passing of the epidemic, the little school continued in a very successful manner. Sister Rosina's account again states:

The next year our school succeeded so well that the Bishop bought a larger house, and a fine garden, and we had everything needed for a large establishment. Sister Reine's place was filled by Sister Laurenta and Sister M. Ambrose and Sister Gonzaga joined us . . . Sister Ambrose taught music and singing, and we had a nice distribution.³⁴

A study of St. Mary's reveals that the school was known by two names. According to Sister Rosina's account, the school was called St. Mary's Academy. Father Cassler in his book styled the school St. Mary's Free and Select School.³⁵ Since academies at the time had a free school department attached to them, it is highly possible that this was the case with this institution.

In the year 1849, an unfriendly element in the town began to work against the school and hampered greatly the work of the Sisters. About this, Father Cassler writes:

They had not received much encouragement on the part of the population. The situation looked bad, and the outlook was gloomy. All over the country, an anti-Catholic movement played havoc with the work of the Church. The Know-Nothing movement was in

³³Helene De Barbarey and Joseph Code, Elizabeth Seton (New York: MacMillan Company, 1931), p. 550.

³⁴St. Mary's Academy, loc. cit.

³⁵Cassler, op. cit., p. 70.

full swing, and it threatened to destroy the Church, or so those benighted fanatics fondly imagined.³⁶

The Sisters of Charity remained only a year or so after this, as they were ordered by their Superior General to abandon their educational efforts in Baton Rouge and devote themselves to the care of the poor and sick in New Orleans where the need seemed greater.³⁷ The Sisters of Charity left Baton Rouge in February of 1851 and were replaced on the same day, February 5, by the Religious of the Sacred Heart.³⁸ However, before the Sisters of Charity left the city, the Jesuit Fathers established St. Peter and Paul's College in Baton Rouge in 1849, the same year the capital was moved to the city.³⁹

St. Peter and Paul's College. St. Peter and Paul's College was founded by the Society of Jesus on the invitation of Bishop Blanc of New Orleans, and upon the insistence of Father Martin, to establish a Jesuit college in Baton Rouge.⁴⁰ In 1847, Father John Baptist, the superior of the Jesuits in Louisiana, selected a suitable tract of land for the erection of the college. On December 8 of the same year he

³⁶Ibid., p. 71.

³⁷St. Mary's Academy, loc. cit.

³⁸Louise Callan, The Society of the Sacred Heart in North America (New York: Longman, Green and Company, 1938), p. 508.

³⁹Gassler, op. cit., p. 146.

⁴⁰Kelly, op. cit., p. 15.

purchased this plot of land from Theophile Bertrand, a "free man of color."⁴¹

Shortly after this transaction, Father Maisonaube died and the building of the college was delayed. The corner stone of the new building, which was called St. Peter and Paul's College, was laid on June 29, 1849, by Father John Cambiasco, who succeeded Father Maisonaube as superior of the Louisiana Jesuits.⁴² At first, the college consisted of two, two-story buildings each sixty by one hundred feet, and placed about sixty or seventy feet apart. Between them a brick building was erected two years later. One of these buildings contained eight classrooms, and the other, four rooms, a dormitory for future boarders, and a chapel.⁴³

Father Cache, the first rector⁴⁴, gives a vivid description of his first days at the college.

These buildings were not yet finished on the 17th of August when I was sent to take charge of the parish which was entrusted to us, to forward work on the buildings, and to open the school as soon as they would be completed. All was done quietly and without ceremony. Our position was not very pleasant. None of the upper rooms were plastered; there were no blinds on the windows; the door of my room was shut by a blanket suspended in front of it; the ceiling was still in fieri and during the night, from my bed, I could contemplate the stars with great ease. Our coffer, which was the drawer of my table, contained three dollars,

⁴¹Deed of Sale, Baton Rouge Court House Archives, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

⁴²Roger Baudier, The Catholic Church in Louisiana (New Orleans: A. W. Hyatt Stationery Mfg. Co., Ltd., 1939), p. 371.

⁴³Kelly, op. cit., p. 16.

⁴⁴Gassler, op. cit., p. 152.

left to me by Father Cambiasco, who went with just enough money to pay his passage on the boat.⁴⁵

The college grounds consisted of four acres, on the North side of North Street between Uncle Sam (Fifth Street) and St. Mary Street. The buildings were constructed, in the main, by the Jesuit Lay Brothers, and were comfortable, well-ventilated and in the style of the architecture of the day. The system of studies followed was that usually found in all Jesuit institutions. A charter was obtained for the college from the State of Louisiana, whereby the power of bestowing academic degrees was granted.⁴⁶

Classes were begun in January of 1850 with twenty-five pupils, divided into two classes, the upper and the lower. For the first year, only English, French, and arithmetic were taught to both classes with the addition of history and geography in the higher class. The school prospered and by the beginning of the third year, the enrollment had increased to about sixty students.⁴⁷ In the Woodstock Letters there is found the spirit of the establishment.

The spirit of our boys, their application and their progress, as well as their moral conduct, were very satisfactory. They formed a little family and had a great esteem and respect for their teachers and feared to displease them. . . . Often when some of them during the recreation, did something against the regulations, those around him

⁴⁵Woodstock Letters, Woodstock, Maryland: 1898, Vol. XXII, No. 1, p. 1.

⁴⁶James J. O'Brien, S. J., "College of St. Peter and Paul, Baton Rouge, Louisiana." (unpublished, Archives, Loyola University of the South, New Orleans, Louisiana).

⁴⁷Woodstock Letters, op. cit., p. 4.

said: "What are you doing? This is against the rules." Punishments and scoldings were scarcely known in the house. During this year, we had several public exhibitions under the direction of Mr. Maguire, which gave much satisfaction and pleasure to the parents.⁴⁸

The Daily Comet of Baton Rouge carried an advertisement of the college announcing the annual fees: \$175.00 for board and tuition, and \$4.00 to \$5.00 a month for day students.⁴⁹

Though the school prospered for a while, disaster hit the institution in the autumn of 1853 with the outbreak of the dreaded yellow fever. The college was forced to close its doors while the professors, the Jesuit priests, ministered to the sick and the dying. They were "martyrs of duty, ministering to the people of the city day and night."⁵⁰ During this epidemic, Father Anthony Parrett and Brother Visconte were stricken by the plague while tending the sick.⁵¹

Another yellow fever epidemic broke out in the summer of 1855 and carried off two more of the faculty of the college, Father Adams and Father Gillis. The school session, 1854-1855, was the last for the college of St. Peter and Paul, as the Jesuits decided to give up the unequal struggle. On the closing, Father Gache left the following letter:

It was closed: 1. Because it offered no prospect for the future, the town being too small to give a sufficient number of day scholars,

⁴⁸Hoodstook Letters, op. cit., p. 4.

⁴⁹Advertisement in the Daily Comet, Baton Rouge, La., September 7, 1852.

⁵⁰Arthur J. Drossaerts, History of the Catholic Church in Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge: Privately published, 1915), p. 53.

⁵¹Kelly, op. cit., p. 19.

and the boarders who might have been received here, would have been taken from Grand Coteau or Springhill; 2. Because Baton Rouge was subject to visitations of yellow fever, as two of our Fathers died there that very summer; 3. The mission group of Jesuits in Louisiana had not a sufficient number of subjects to continue it.⁵²

The buildings were partly destroyed by the bombardment of the Federals in 1862, during the Battle of Baton Rouge.⁵³

The faculty and other personnel employed at the college from 1850 to 1855 were as follows: Rev. Hypolite Gache, the first superior and minister, Rev. Fathers James Duffo, Francis Abbadie, Joseph Lavay, Theodore de Willebois, J. B. Dechambenoit, Anthony Parrett, Darius Hubert, J. Prachensky, Vitallis Gillis; Jesuit Scholastics: Messrs. James Maguire, Bouige, Anthony Lenz, Clemens Staub, J. Delabays, G. Booker (ordained in Baton Rouge, May 10, 1854), H. Begley, A. Raux; several eminent lay teachers: Mr. Bouige, Mr. Hart, Mr. Morehead, and Mr. McCauley. Assisting the faculty in various duties about the college were the following lay Brothers: Brothers John Samuel, John Ashberger, Ignatius Boemecke, Henry Viconti, Ducret, Philip Corne, Michel, A. Rogation, Andreas Boemecke, A. Setie, S. Sauseat, and A. Barry.⁵⁴

These men, whose names were household words in the homes of the last generation in the South, distinguished themselves both as teachers and missionaries, and produced on all with whom they came in contact, a most favorable impression.⁵⁵

⁵²Woodstock Letters, op. cit., p. 3.

⁵³James O'Brien, S. J., loc. cit.

⁵⁴Woodstock Letters, op. cit., pp. 6-7.

⁵⁵Albert H. Biever, S. J., The Jesuits in New Orleans and the Mississippi Valley (New Orleans: n.n. 1924), p. 173.

The Religious of the Sacred Heart and St. Mary's Academy. The Religious of the Sacred Heart were called to Baton Rouge to continue the work of the Sisters of Charity at St. Mary's Academy. The Jesuits had established their college two years before in 1849, and the presence of the Jesuits in the city was a "determining factor" in the coming of the new Sisters to fill the gap.⁵⁶

The opportunity to fill the urgent need of a convent in Louisiana's capital was inviting. Spiritual help was promised by the Jesuits, who had opened St. Peter and Paul's college just two years before.⁵⁷

There was little trouble in starting the educational work, since the Sisters of Charity left their successors a well organized school plant. One of the Sisters wrote of their opening of the school:

On the morning of February 8, a band of fifty children came to greet us and to inspect our habit at length. It differed greatly from the one to which they were accustomed. They were friendly Southern children, whose acquaintance was easily made, and they were quite willing to begin school on the following day. They came, seventy-two in number, of all ages and grades. Most of them were able to read very well.⁵⁸

The school continued under much the same pattern as was set by the Sisters of Charity and all went well until the autumn of 1853, when the dreaded yellow fever struck the area. As with the Jesuit college, the faculty and students were stricken with the disease. The school was temporarily closed until 1854.⁵⁹ Again in 1855, another epidemic of

⁵⁶Kelly, op. cit., p. 22.

⁵⁷Callan, op. cit., p. 508.

⁵⁸Ibid., p. 510.

⁵⁹Ibid., p. 513.

yellow fever appeared in Baton Rouge. Among those who died during this siege were one nun, two Jesuit priests, and three students from the convent school.

The last ravages of the epidemic spelled the end of the school. Mother Barat, Superior General of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, upon hearing of the disaster in a French newspaper, wrote Mother Jouve, superior of the houses in Louisiana, and suggested closing the Baton Rouge school to relieve St. Michael's in Convent, Louisiana.⁶⁰ Mother Guinard, superior of St. Mary's Academy, wrote of the last few days in Baton Rouge:

I returned to Baton Rouge to disperse the little family there and to close the convent. The parents and children were saddened at our departure and came repeatedly to beg us to remain. Several of the leading citizens signed a petition and sent it to Rev. Mother Jouve. But what could she do? God, who had placed us in that city, had taken away from us the means of carrying on His work. Though our hearts were broken, they were entirely resigned to the Divine Will. On November 10, 1855, we said good-bye to the children of Baton Rouge and returned to St. Michael's.⁶¹

From 1855 until 1867 there were no Catholic schools in Baton Rouge. A scourge worse than yellow fever racked the town. Louisiana was caught up in the throes of the War between the States, and as has been seen, the state seceded from the Union in 1861. The Battle of Baton Rouge was fought in 1862 and left its mark upon the city. Bitter political and social strife rode high.⁶² The economic status of the

⁶⁰Ibid.

⁶¹Ibid., p. 514.

⁶²Aertker, op. cit., p. 129.

area reached a new low. In spite of the strife, the population of the city continued to grow. The population in 1850 was 3,905.⁶³ By 1860, it was 5,428.⁶⁴ From 1860 to 1870 the population further increased to 6,498.⁶⁵ Also by 1870, the Catholic population was 2,500.⁶⁶ This represented more than double the Catholic population in 1860.⁶⁷

These were the conditions prevalent in Baton Rouge around 1867, when Father Cyril De La Croix, the pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church,⁶⁸ begged the Brothers of the Christian Schools to open a school for boys in his parish.⁶⁹

The Christian Brothers Institute (1867-1871). The Christian Brothers Institute began with the arrival of five Brothers of the St. Louis Province, under Brother Badomicus, as superior. The first faculty members were: Brother Pierre Martyr (later known as Brother Anthimian), Brother Benedict, Brother Emmanuel, Brother Edward, and Brother Doman. The first school was located in the convent of the Sacred Heart, which

⁶³7th Census U. S., (1850), Population, 475.

⁶⁴8th Census U. S., (1860), Population, 194.

⁶⁵9th Census U. S., (1870), Population, 155.

⁶⁶Ibid., p. 541.

⁶⁷8th Census U. S., (1860), Population, 401-3.

⁶⁸Gassler, op. cit., p. 87.

⁶⁹Brother Angelus Gabriel, F. S. C., The Christian Brothers in the United States 1848-1948 (New York: The Declan X. McMullen Company, Inc., 1948), p. 215.

had been purchased by the pastor.⁷⁰

On the morning of September 1, 1867, the school opened its doors to receive the first students, fifty-four boys. Prosperity reigned during the first three years and by the fourth year the numbers had increased to two hundred and eighty-six. From the archives of the Christian Brothers is gleaned the class distribution at this time: First, or highest class, fifty pupils; second class, fifty-six pupils; third class, sixty pupils; and the fourth class, fifty pupils.⁷¹ There was also a special section for negro children.⁷²

Finances caused the closing of the school in 1871. The school had been moved from Church and Florida Streets to Laurel and Fifth Streets in 1869, when Father Delacroix purchased a remodeled church for the use of the Brothers. From the beginning, the understanding was that the school would be parochial and the pastor would pay the Brothers a stipulated salary. The money was taken from the tuition paid by the scholars, five dollars a month for the highest classes, and one dollar a month for the lowest classes. But as the number of students increased and the faculty along with it, not enough money was collected and the Superior, Brother Anthimian, was forced to close the school.⁷³

⁷⁰Archives, Mother House of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, 202 Via Aurelia, Rome, Italy. Folio V, Baton Rouge House.

⁷¹Archives, Christian Brothers, loc. cit., Baton Rouge.

⁷²Gabriel, op. cit., p. 215.

⁷³Archives, Christian Brothers, loc. cit., Baton Rouge.

"Much to everybody's regret the Brothers were withdrawn July, 1871."⁷⁴ The following comments are found in the writings of the Brothers concerning their work in Baton Rouge:

The Baton Rouge children are refined and excellent scholars. They belonged to the best families in the city. It is a real pity to close this school and to take the Brothers away as their work was appreciated and the results, excellent.⁷⁵

With the closing of the school, Baton Rouge was once more without a Catholic school for boys. This condition lasted for the next six years, until the Sisters of St. Joseph opened St. Joseph's School for Boys in 1877. This school was the immediate predecessor of St. Vincent's Academy, which came into being as a permanent school in 1894. One other school did come into the educational picture before St. Vincent's Academy opened; it was St. Joseph's Academy for girls.

St. Joseph's School for Boys (1877-1888). A school for boys was opened by the Sisters of St. Joseph, under Mother Albina, superior.⁷⁶ These Sisters had first come to Baton Rouge in 1868 to care for an orphanage, a day school and a boarding school for girls. Their educational endeavors in Baton Rouge had begun with the invitation of Archbishop Odin in 1865 when he appealed to Reverend Mother St. Claude for the Sisters of St. Joseph to open a school in Baton Rouge.

⁷⁴Brother Albeus Jerome, Notes of Brother Albeus Jerome, St. Joseph's Institute, Barrytown, New Jersey.

⁷⁵Archives, Christian Brothers, loc. cit., Baton Rouge.

⁷⁶Kelly, op. cit., p. 40.

They are going to offer a new establishment to your Sisters in the city of Baton Rouge, capital of the State of Louisiana after the war . . . The work will be to take charge of a house of orphans, of a day school, and of a boarding school for the children of the neighboring territory. The Sisters who are sent will have much work, but they will be able to attain great success. I would be happy if you would authorize the acceptance of this mission. The pecuniary resources will be sufficient, and spiritual help will not be lacking.⁷⁷

The invitation was accepted and in 1868, four Sisters accompanied by Mother Stephanie, Provincial, came to Baton Rouge. Upon their arrival, they immediately began the task before them. The orphanage they took over was located on St. Anthony Street, between North and Main Streets.⁷⁸ It had been the Female Orphan Asylum of Baton Rouge, built shortly before 1858, by the ladies of the city.⁷⁹ Gradually, the orphanage outgrew its buildings and a larger and more suitable habitation was sought. Once more the old Sacred Heart Convent on Church Street was put into operation. They received this on condition that they continue to care for the orphans of East Baton Rouge Parish.⁸⁰ As time passed, the orphanage became crowded once more, and it was moved to the corner of Fifth and Florida Streets in 1890.⁸¹ The orphans and

⁷⁷Baton Rouge, (Archives, Maison Mère de St. Joseph, 3 Rue du Lycée, Bloung-en-Bresse--Ain--, France).

⁷⁸Sister Eugenie Veglia, The Sisters of St. Joseph in Louisiana, (unpublished Master's thesis, Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1936), p. 18.

⁷⁹Frederick S. Allen, A Social and Economic History of Baton Rouge, 1850, (unpublished Master's thesis, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1936), p. 18.

⁸⁰Letter of Mother Stephanie, October 27, 1868. Archives, Bourg, loc. cit.

⁸¹Drossaerts, op. cit., p. 15.

the academy were housed here until a new building was erected facing Church Street. The Orphanage and the Academy also outgrew this building and a modern structure was built on Broussard Street in 1941.⁸²

Nine years after the arrival of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baton Rouge, and six years after the close of the Christian Brothers' school, Mother Albina opened a school on the convent property for boys in 1877. The school taught only the elementary grades. Some of the prominent men in Baton Rouge today, educated at this early school, were: Alex Grouchy, Eugene Cazadessus, Anthony Cazadessus, August Strenzke, Hubert Wax, Robert Bogan and Phil Huyok.⁸³ After eleven years of service, the school was permanently closed in 1888. Three years later in 1891, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart opened a permanent school for boys.

St. Joseph's Academy. St. Joseph's Academy was the outgrowth of the Sisters of St. Joseph's work with the orphans. The work of the academy was by far the most productive work undertaken by the Sisters in Baton Rouge. This school had its beginnings with that of the orphanage in 1868. In 1871, the name of the school was changed from St. Joseph's Day School to its present name, St. Joseph's Academy. Mother Albina, an indefatigable worker in the field of education, became superior in 1870.⁸⁴ In 1875, St. Joseph's Academy was chartered under the laws of Louisiana.

⁸²Kelly, op. cit., p. 62.

⁸³Ibid., p. 41.

⁸⁴Sister Estelle, Notes (Archives of St. Joseph's Academy, Baton Rouge, Louisiana).

This was of singular import to the school, as it set the Academy on a firm basis with state recognition of its students and diplomas.⁸⁵ Among the early regulations of the Academy, one had to board at the Convent for at least a year to receive graduation honors.⁸⁶

The Advocate of 1882 gave high praise to the Sisters of St. Joseph and their school when writing about the commencement exercises of that year.

During the past year the scholars of St. Joseph's Academy have made excellent progress and parents and public, generally, are highly pleased therewith. The entire affair was a grand success and will long be remembered as one of the most interesting scholastic exhibitions ever witnessed in our city. Great credit is due to the Catholic Sisters for the great efficiency they have displayed in training the young.⁸⁷

St. Joseph's Academy has continued its successful ways until the present time. The enrollment in 1953 was more than five hundred students. This success was brought about by the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who had to overcome epidemics, floods, and financial hard times. The following is a list of some of the heroic nuns who labored many years for the children of the Baton Rouge area: Mother Albina, Mother St. Rose, Mother Raphael, Sister Alphonse, Sister Xavier, Sister St. Romain, Mother des Anges, Mother Alice and Sister Tharsilla.⁸⁸

⁸⁵Kelly, op. cit., p. 48.

⁸⁶Archives, Regulations 1876, loc. cit.

⁸⁷News item in the Morning Advocate, July 27, 1882.

⁸⁸Kelly, op. cit., pp. 36-62.

Among the active organizations in the school in 1953 were: the Holy Angel's Sodality, the Holy Childhood Association, the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, the Glee Club, Dramatic Club, Beta Club for Honor Students, the Student Council, and the Alumnae Association.⁸⁹

Thus from 1868 to 1953, a small orphanage had grown to a fully accredited elementary and high school.

Organized during the period of stress, it helped the cause of education in a way that has been worthy of note; it filled a place in the development of Baton Rouge of which its inhabitants are justly proud.⁹⁰

St. Vincent's Academy (1891-1892). St. Vincent's Academy may be regarded as the first parochial school in Baton Rouge, in that the buildings were owned by St. Joseph's Church.

During the administration of Father Delacroix, St. Joseph's Church paid off a long standing debt which consisted of a mortgage on the church property. All efforts having been centered on obtaining undisputed possession of the church properties once more, the dream of a school for the education of the boys had to be postponed for long years.⁹¹ Long years, because Father Delacroix, who had been pastor of St. Joseph's since 1866, often felt the need of a boys' school taught by trained men, and the church debt he strived to clear up wasn't paid

⁸⁹Ibid., p. 63.

⁹⁰Hobley, op. cit., p. 406.

⁹¹Cassler, op. cit., p. 104.

off until 1889.⁹² The payment of the last mortgage note made possible the opening of the first St. Vincent's Academy, which lasted for only one school session.

When he was finally cleared of his church worries, Father Delacroix turned his attention towards his long cherished project. It was through the united efforts of himself and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, that the Brothers of the Sacred Heart were called to Baton Rouge in September, 1891. The Advocate announced the readiness of the school.

The school furniture for St. Vincent's Academy having arrived, the classrooms are now completely furnished for the opening day September 7. The Academy will be under the direction of Brother Felix, lately vice-president of the commercial college, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and professor of physics and book-keeping in that institution.

Young men desirous of pursuing a course in the higher mathematics or in book-keeping have here an opportunity which should not be neglected. Pupils of all denominations are received.⁹³

Brothers Urban and Raymond accompanied Brother Felix to Baton Rouge in the first opening of St. Vincent's Academy in 1891. They started school on the second floor of the old Singletary building on Church Street across from St. Joseph's Academy.⁹⁴ The opening day gave the Brothers promise for the future. A reporter from the Advocate visited the schools of the city on the opening day and told of his visit to the Academy and Brother Felix thus:

⁹²Ibid.

⁹³News item in the Advocate, September 5, 1891.

⁹⁴New Orleans, La. (Notes, Archives, Brothers of the Sacred Heart).

Brother Felix, principal, feels highly encouraged with the opening prospects. He has already matriculated fifty-five scholars and has numerous promises from others. The Brother says that the opening of St. Vincent's College even surpasses his most sanguine expectations. . . .⁹⁵

The faculty residence was a poorly equipped cottage some doors north of the school on Church Street. The Brothers were greatly hampered in their teaching for lack of accommodations and the endured hardship in their incommensurable dwelling. A promise had been made of a new school building and residence on a fine and spacious lot of ground on North Street facing Church Street,⁹⁶ the old abandoned cemetery of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, as the first St. Joseph's Church had been originally known. This property, however, had been in the possession of the United States Government since 1843, when the wardens of the church neglected to straighten out her Spanish land grant claims with the government after the West Floridas had become a part of the United States in 1819.⁹⁷ The Church had not yet regained control of this land.

As the surroundings of the school and residence were undesirable, the Brothers left Baton Rouge at the end of the first session. In the meantime, every effort was made to secure the desirable United States property, which had been promised. A bill had been introduced in Congress

⁹⁵ News item from The Advocate, September 12, 1891.

⁹⁶ Brothers of the Sacred Heart, A Century of Service for the Sacred Heart in the United States (New Orleans: n.n. 1947), p. 239.

⁹⁷ Gassler, op. cit., p. 104.

by Congressman Sam W. Robertson in 1889 with every prospect of success.⁹⁸ By an act of Congress, July 16, 1890, St. Joseph's Church was authorized to use the land quit claimed to it by the United States for school purposes. A temporary building was erected on the place and school was taught by secular teachers until the Brothers returned in 1894, to permanently establish St. Vincent's Academy.⁹⁹

Thus were the events from the founding of Baton Rouge and the beginnings of Catholic education in Baton Rouge to the year 1894. After the temporary establishment of St. Vincent's Academy in 1891, the permanent foundations began anew in 1894 on grounds rich in the lore of Louisiana history.

⁹⁸Congressional Record, H. R. report 849, 1890.

⁹⁹Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., p. 239.

CHAPTER II

ST. VINCENT'S ACADEMY, 1894-1921

The year 1894 marks the second and permanent founding of St. Vincent's Academy. Before recording the early days of the school up to the year 1921, a brief summary will be given of the Religious Congregation, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, which composed the faculty of the Academy from 1894 to the present.

THE BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART

The Brothers of the Sacred Heart are a community of men founded for the purpose of the Christian education of youth.¹ It was in 1821 that the Reverend Andre Coindre, a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, gathered around him in Lyons, France, the nucleus for the present well-known community.² Abbe Coindre gave the young men, the first Brothers of the Sacred Heart, the rules of St. Augustine and the constitutions of St. Ignatius, the great Jesuit of the sixteenth century.³

The Brothers soon became known, and by 1826, they had opened five schools in France. Father Andre Coindre died shortly after the founding of the Community and his brother, Father Vincent Coindre, took over the

¹Rules and Constitutions of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Chapter I, Article I.

²Brothers of the Sacred Heart, A Century of Service for the Sacred Heart in the United States (New Orleans: n.n. 1947), p. 4.

³Ibid., p. 6.

young congregation in the same year, 1826.⁴ On August 20, 1841, Abbe Vincent Coindre resigned as Superior, and the Brothers, according to the wish of their founder, resolved that the office should be given to one of their own members. Accordingly, on September 13, 1841, the General Chapter unanimously elected Brother Polycarp Superior-General for five years.⁵

Under the wise direction of Brother Polycarp, the Congregation increased in members, and schools multiplied rapidly.⁶ When he was elected Superior-General, there were only sixty Brothers and nearly a dozen establishments; at his death in 1859, he left four hundred Brothers and about seventy schools. It was during this time, in the year 1847, that the first Brothers of the Sacred Heart were sent to the United States.⁷

At the insistence of Bishop Portier, the first Bishop of Mobile,⁸ Brother Polycarp sent five Brothers to teach the orphan boys of that diocese. This was the beginning. Many schools sprang up following this establishment, and those from 1847 to 1894 were as follows: St. Vincent's Academy, Mobile, Alabama, 1847; Boys' Industrial School, Mobile, Alabama,

⁴Ibid., p. 10.

⁵Ibid., p. 15.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Ibid., p. 24.

⁸Roger Baudier, The Catholic Church in Louisiana (New Orleans: A. W. Hyatt Stationery Mfg. Co., Ltd., 1939), p. 287.

1866; Cathedral School, Mobile, Alabama, 1848; St. Joseph's School, Mobile, Alabama, 1871; St. Stanislaus College, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, 1854; St. Stanislaus Day School, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, 1870; Cathedral School, Natchez, Mississippi, 1865; D'Evereux Hall Asylum, Natchez, Mississippi, 1865; St. John's School, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1867; St. Patrick's School, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1870; St. Aloysius College, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1869; St. Aloysius College, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 1879; St. Joseph's Commercial Institute, Donaldsonville, Louisiana, 1886; St. Francis Xavier's School (Menard Memorial), Alexandria, Louisiana, 1893; Thibodaux College, Thibodaux, Louisiana, 1891; and St. Vincent's Academy, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1894.⁹

A news item found in the Baton Rouge Advocate gave an account of one of these early schools of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, giving evidence of their work.

St. Stanislaus Academy-Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. This well-known college begins its next session Friday, September 1. . . .

The Mathematical department is particularly efficient; which for business training it is unexcelled in the South. Its graduates are to be found holding important and lucrative positions in all the Southwestern States.

A silver medal was awarded to this College at the Paris Exhibition of 1889.¹⁰

The Congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart was incorporated by an act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey

⁹Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., pp. 93-319.

¹⁰News item in the Baton Rouge Advocate, August 26, 1893.

in 1893. The following is an excerpt from the Act.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF THE
BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART

This is to certify that the undersigned, do hereby associate themselves into a corporation under and by virtue of the provisions of an act of the legislature of the State of New Jersey, entitled "An Act to incorporate associations not for pecuniary profit," approved April Twenty-first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and several supplements thereto and acts amendatory, thereof.

FIRST: The name of this corporation is "BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART."

SECOND: The purposes for which this corporation is formed are:

The advancement of education and learning. To establish and maintain, in this state and in other states and territories of the United States, schools, academies and other institutions of learning.¹¹

At the present writing, there are over five hundred Brothers of the Sacred Heart in the United States carrying on the educational work as planned by those before them.

PROPERTY QUESTION

As mentioned in the preceding chapter, the property on which St. Vincent's Academy was built in 1894 proved to be a controversial question until the final land settlements in 1928, when a clear title was obtained from the United States Government.

The use of the land in question and its location is given in the following act taken from the original records in the Baton Rouge Court House.

¹¹ Act of Incorporation, Archives of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, New Orleans, Louisiana.

An act to provide for the disposal of a portion of the United States military reservation at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that whatever title may remain in the United States to a parcel of ground in the United States reservation or Garrison grounds in the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and heretofore used as a grave-yard or burial ground by the Roman Catholic Congregation of St. Joseph's Church of said city in the parish of East Baton Rouge, which is not included in any of the lots or streets of said city but lie on North Street and between Uncle Sam Street and the lot or private property of H. E. Hansey, measuring Two hundred and fourteen and five-tenths feet American Measure, one line of said Hansey, running north, by a depth of four hundred and ninety-seven feet more or less, running east to west line of Uncle Sam Street¹² between parallel lines, and containing about two hundred and forty-five one-hundredths, be and same is hereby relinquished and granted unto the Roman Catholic Congregation of St. Joseph's Church of the city of Baton Rouge of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana in trust for the sole use, so long as the same shall be used for cemetery purposes, unless here required by the Secretary of War for the use of the United States for military purposes.¹³

Approved, September 30th, 1890

This act was later amended to read "for cemetery and religious purposes," thus giving St. Joseph's Church the right to build a school on the property. Congress passed this act on July 16, 1892.¹⁴

SECOND ESTABLISHMENT OF ST. VINCENT'S ACADEMY

Father Delacroix did not live to see his cherished dream of a boys' school conducted by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. He died after a

¹²Uncle Sam Street is the present Fifth Street.

¹³Bundle 38, Conveyance Book 13, Folio 130, Original 7, East Baton Rouge County Court House.

¹⁴Congressional Record, H. R. report 849, 1892.

long and eventful pastorate of twenty-eight years, December 7, 1893.¹⁵

Father J. M. Laval, later to become Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, succeeded Father Delacroix as pastor of St. Joseph's Church. He was much interested in the re-establishment of the boys' school and immediately made plans to get the Brothers of the Sacred Heart back in Baton Rouge.¹⁶

The following contract was entered into by Father Laval and Brother Osmund, S. C., on September 1, 1894:

The Brothers of the Sacred Heart undertake to build a school and residence, or other buildings which they think necessary for conducting their school, on condition that they shall have exclusive rights of enjoyment of the old graveyard of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, bounded on the east by Uncle Sam Street, on the north by Louisiana State University grounds, on the west by a private residence, and on the south by North Street, as long as they shall keep a school on said grounds.¹⁷

The Baton Rouge Advocate mentioned a preliminary visit of Brothers Felix and Isidore with Father Laval in preparation for the second opening of the Academy.

The Advocate was favored yesterday afternoon by a visit from Father Isidore, the vice-president of St. Stanislaus College, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, Father Laval of this city and Father Felix, who proposes to open a first class high school here about the first of October. Father Felix informed the Advocate that he will at once begin to remodel and greatly enlarge the building on North St. now known as the Brothers' School, and by the time for opening he expects to have a full corps of trained professors and buildings for the accommodation of 150 boys. The Advocate is pleased with this evidence of this worthy

¹⁵The Golden Bear, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Catholic High School, November 29, 1944.

¹⁶Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., p. 240.

¹⁷Archives of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, New Orleans, Louisiana.

school, and it congratulates Father Felix in the success of his efforts to build up the educational interests of our city.¹⁸

That the Brothers of the Sacred Heart were well-known in Louisiana is evinced by the continued write-ups afforded them in the Baton Rouge Advocate preliminary to the opening of the school.

The Brothers of Saint Vincent's Academy of North Street, are making extensive additions to their already large school room, to meet growing demand. The education of the boys will be in charge of teachers of approved experience when sent to this Academy. Mathematics and bookkeeping are special features. This is one of the most complete boys' schools in the city.¹⁹

A further news item in The Advocate just prior to the opening day, October 1, was the following:

Those who have labored in the improvement of mankind have speedily recognized the fact that education was a most important factor in the progress of civilization, by keeping alive the flame of science and cultivating the latent virtues of the human heart.

Prominent among the educators of the day are the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. The Brothers are too well known as practical teachers to need any introduction at our hands. Bay St. Louis College, New Orleans, Natchez, Vicksburg and other places can testify to the efficiency of their methods, and to the practical results of their system. St. Vincent's Academy on North Street, is a masterful type of school architecture, and reflects credit not only on the enterprising spirit of the Brothers, but also upon the artistic skill and taste of Mr. Miller, the well-known architect and builder of our city.²⁰

The Brothers had the buildings erected and made the necessary improvements to the grounds at the cost of \$6,443.00. Of this sum, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul gave \$2,000.00, stipulating that the

¹⁸News item in the Baton Rouge Advocate, July 21, 1894.

¹⁹News item in the Baton Rouge Advocate, August 11, 1894.

²⁰News item in the Baton Rouge Advocate, September 29, 1894.

Brothers receive in their school twelve boys free each year. It was for this reason that the school was named "St. Vincent's Academy." The balance of the building cost was paid by the Brothers.²¹

The second founders of the school were: Brother Felix, principal, who had also directed the old school on Church Street in 1891, and Brothers Artus, Firmin and David, his associates.²²

The school was a one-story frame building, L-shaped, facing Church Street.²³ There were five class rooms. One of the rooms was constructed larger than the others and was also used for assembly purposes. There was a wide gallery in the front of the building and arches separated the columns supporting the gallery. The faculty residence was a two-story frame building, a little to the east of the school.²⁴

THE FIRST PRINCIPAL

The first school session of the new St. Vincent's Academy started on October 1, 1894, with an enrollment of 106 boys.²⁵ Brother Felix returned to Baton Rouge to head the new foundation of St. Vincent's Academy. He had previously served as principal of the first foundation in 1891. Brother Macarius, the second principal of St. Vincent's Academy,

²¹Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., p. 240.

²²Archives, loc. cit.

²³Church Street has been renamed Fourth Street.

²⁴Brothers of the Sacred Heart, loc. cit.

²⁵Archives, loc. cit.

1903,²⁶ when writing of the death of Brother Felix in 1935, recorded much information about Brother Felix as principal, his methods and philosophy.

Brother Felix was recalled to Baton Rouge and St. Vincent's Academy as director and till 1903 presided over its destinies. Here it was that Brother Felix as a man and a religious became greatly appreciated. He became so identified with the place that even today amidst all the great changes that have occurred, Brother Felix's name is a tradition and benediction.

He conducted his school along the traditional lines of that time. Active, energetic, enthusiastic he won the admiration of his pupils. His discipline was strict and fatherly. His teaching was thorough in the usual branches then taught in our schools. He instilled a manly self reliance in his pupils and he made them feel the pride of achievement and the desire for further advancement by his encouragement, his praise and his elation at their success. He had a way of exalting the work of his pupils and their knowledge as though they were the achievements of a school of higher learning. He gave them a dignity and commanding self respect so that they came to believe St. Vincent's Academy equal to any institution of learning in the South.

In an article written by him in the Quarterly Bulletin published by the Province in 1901 he tells how his school was conducted. He speaks of the persistent opposition from certain State Institutions, of the "Booming" of the new public school lately completed at a cost of \$47,000. However, he says, opposition brings out the latent resources of every individual. In that session S.V.A. enrolled 126 pupils. The primal cause of the renown of his school, he states, is strict unbending discipline. It proved most efficacious in inspiring in the students a feeling of admiration for the school, of esteem for the faculty and of respect for themselves.

Emulation was another potent factor in the maintenance of a real healthy school. Two means were adopted. A friendly rivalry among the pupils and letting the local world know of the good work being done. As he said, "Do good work and then let everybody know it, may not be in accordance with humility; but it's a mighty fine plan for running a school." He held bimonthly examinations. The program was given out at the beginning of the period, and no teacher was allowed to trespass its limits. This program was the product of the collective experiences of the teachers. The examination questions

²⁶Archives, log. cit.

were made by the director and the successful pupils had their names published in the local papers. He adds, "What gloom settles upon the countenance of the sad student whose name was spelled wrong."

By awarding monthly premiums he did away with the indiscriminate awards which then prevailed, to the good, bad, and indifferent which, he said was found to be a nuisance and absolutely devoid of emulative characteristics. They did not serve as an incentive to study and in no way justified the annual outlay of money and time required for their selection.²⁷

Brother Felix was a teacher who could make the pupils feel they were learning. He carried them along by his earnest enthusiasm and created in them a desire to learn.²⁸

The State University was at that time unprogressive, the number of students small, and the curriculum was not varied. The entrance requirements were not high because of the low state of education in Louisiana in the early nineteen hundreds.²⁹ This state of affairs continued until Thomas Duckett Boyd was made President of the University.³⁰ Being a progressive educator, he labored hard to advance the University in the educational world, and succeeded in making the institution the pride of Louisiana. He was a friend and admirer of Brother Felix, and never tired praising the thorough work of the Brothers.³¹

²⁷Brother Macarius, The Life of Brother Felix, S.C. (New Orleans: unpublished, 1935), pp. 4-5.

²⁸Interview with Messrs. John B. Heroman and Brantley Fourrier, class of '98.

²⁹Halter L. Fleming, Louisiana State University 1860-1896 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1936), p. 472.

³⁰Ibid., p. 409.

³¹Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., p. 241.

Brother Felix beautified the grounds of the Academy, making them one of the beauty spots of the city of Baton Rouge. Of his work, Brother Macarius wrote:

He loved fine surroundings. He made a beautiful lawn in front of his school with a mound in the center from which rose a flag staff. This lawn he tended with religious care and woe betide, the person that dared to set a saecreligious foot upon it. He surrounded it with a youpon hedge, a very hardy shrub which he found in the surrounding woods. This hedge was always kept perfectly trimmed. Elm trees were planted for shade and ornament and he bordered the walks with hardy perennials so that with little effort he had an enchanting flower garden. Roses of the frequent blooming variety were planted here and there and in front of the residence he had a trellis built reaching to the second story on which he trained such gorgeous climbers as the Henrietta and the Marshal Neil, whose profuse bloom, made a fairy bower and whose perfume scented the whole house. On the side entrance to the grounds he planted a china berry walk which with its thick foliage was a cool spot in the hot summer months. In the rear of the school he planted an orchard of Bartlett pears, peaches, and plums and he had a well-stocked poultry yard of the choicest fowls. Can one wonder that Brother Felix loved this home and was accustomed to say "My school, my lawn, my men?"³²

Since Brother Felix had spent a long time in Baton Rouge, he could therefore shape the tradition and policy of his school. The people appreciated his work in the class room for they saw the sterling qualities of his graduates. He was one of the most honored men in Baton Rouge in the 1890's. Catholics, Protestants, and Jews were glad to know him and honored him as a friend.³³ Baton Rouge was the scene of his labors until 1903, when he was transferred to Bay St. Louis as President of St. Stanislaus College.³⁴

³² Brother Macarius, op. cit., p. 6.

³³ Interview with Mr. John B. Heroman, class of '98.

³⁴ Catholic High School Records, Roll Book.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL

During the early days of the school, the classes were divided into groups according to age and ability. Classes were designated, the First Class, the highest; the Second Class, the next highest; and so on down to the Fourth Class. This was the custom of division in many early schools.³⁵ The enrollment increased and the curriculum was expanded. The number of classes increased until the present graded system was attained.³⁶ By the end of Brother Felix's tenure of office in 1903, the number of classes had increased to five. However, during the session 1899-1900, there had been a sixth class.³⁷

The course of studies for the lower classes followed that of the Common Schools of the 1890's.³⁸ Brother Felix in later years frequently mentioned the "good old days of Hart's Rhetoric, Bullicon's Grammar, Robinson's Arithmetic and Steele's Fourteen Weeks in Physics."³⁹ The complete course of studies to qualify for graduation were listed on the diploma. These were: Penmanship, Business Forms, Commercial Correspondence, and Rhetoric, Commercial and Higher Arithmetic and all

³⁵Interview with Brother Wilfred, S.C., faculty member 1917.

³⁶Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Brother Macarius, op. cit., p. 7.

³⁹Ibid., p. 8.

branches of Bookkeeping, Commercial Law, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Surveying and Physics.⁴⁰

St. Vincent's Academy was chartered September 5, 1896.⁴¹ The following words were found at the top of the coveted diploma: "Chartered under the Laws of Louisiana and empowered to confer Degrees and grant Diplomas."⁴² The recipient of such a diploma received an Honorary Degree of M.A. The first graduates to receive these diplomas were Louis Laurey, Stanley Miller and Edward Wax, of the Class of 1897.⁴³

The diploma found on the following page was that of Brantley Fourrier of the Class of 1898. Mr. John B. Heroman was the valedictorian of the class, and his valedictory was as follows:

Rev. Father! Devoted Teachers! Ladies and Gentlemen:
The day of fond anticipation has come; the day so proudly and yet so anxiously looked for; and its parting moments as they glide into the great ocean of time, are bidding farewell to our brief scenes of triumph, lingering only to bear with them our echo to their adieus.

There are few things in the history of the past which elicit more admiration than the respect paid by man to the "Halls of Learning," that in almost every age arose beside the Temple consecrated to Religion. Thitherward are turned the anxious eyes of all nations and peoples who have labored in the progress of civilization.

They were a response to the insatiable yearnings of man's noblest part, to that spirit within him which attests his heaven-born origin,

⁴⁰Diploma, St. Vincent's Academy, Baton Rouge, 1898.

⁴¹Charter for St. Vincent's Academy, Baton Rouge, Bundle 55, Conveyance Book 20, Folio 197, Original 135, Baton Rouge County Court House.

⁴²Diploma, loc. cit.

⁴³Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

to that spirit characterized by the poet as a spark of divinity. We of this generation point in hopeful augury of our country's future to the spirit which has kept us in accord with these glorious traditions.

Unmistakable are the marks of esteem in which the citizens of our country hold the numberless schools which dot the land from ocean to ocean. At this season of the year these institutions are thronged with generous patrons eager to show their appreciation and applaud the humble efforts of the young.

Tonight, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are the envied Sharers of your esteem and applause. . the foremost boys of this school term. But these lights will soon be extinguished, the pomp and glare of these exercises will only be a memory, and we pass into your ranks, trusting to the kind fortune of the future.

And so devoted teachers, we must bid you farewell. For your many labors and sacrifices in our behalf we thank you. We hope and trust that the class of '93 may ever by a credit and a pride to our beloved "S.V.A." Again we bid you, "Farewell." School mates Farewell!⁴⁴

The graduation exercises were usually held in the old Pike's Hall Theatre.⁴⁵ This theater was built in 1865 and was torn down in 1900. The old Pike's Hall Theatre figured prominently in the theatrical history of Baton Rouge.⁴⁶ It was the custom for the graduating class to stage a play for the commencement exercises.⁴⁷

A brief account of the Pike's Hall theater and its location was given recently in the Magazine Section of the Sunday Morning Advocate.

⁴⁴Valedictory Address from the private collection of Mr. John B. Heroman, Baton Rouge, La.

⁴⁵Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

⁴⁶Magazine Section, Morning Advocate, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 5, 1951.

⁴⁷Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

Of especial importance to Baton Rouge theatrical history was the construction of Pike's Hall between 1865-66. The building was located about halfway between the present locations of Walgreen's and the Istrouma Hotel. McVay was the architect.⁴⁸

After Pike's Hall was torn down, the graduation exercises were held in the new Elk's theater until 1916.⁴⁹ The site of this theater was given by the Advocate in an article about the Baton Rouge theaters.

When theatrical affairs were resumed in the fall of 1900, the Elks were ready with a three-story building on the site of the present Triad Building on Third and Florida Streets. That particular site was chosen because of the cheapness of lots on Third Street, which then was populated with two livery stables and several tin shops. Lafayette was the main street.⁵⁰

From 1916 until 1925, the graduation exercises were held at the auditorium of St. Joseph's Academy on Fourth Street. In 1925, the exercises were held at the Nicholson School; in 1926 and '27, at the Dufrocq School; in 1928 and 1929, in the Baton Rouge High School auditorium.⁵¹ In 1930, the commencement exercises were held in the gym-auditorium of the new Catholic High School.⁵²

Brother Lambert, S.C., a faculty member under Brother Felix in 1397, and principal when the new Catholic High School was built in 1928, wrote of the old commencement exercises:

Ever since the days of Brother Felix, a play by the students, was "de Rigueur" as part of the Commencement Exercises; for many years the plays of S.V.A. and C.H.S. were under the direction of Mr. St. Clair Favrot. Formerly, heavy dramas were in style but later on the

⁴⁸Morning Advocate, loc. cit.

⁴⁹Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

⁵⁰Morning Advocate, loc. cit.

⁵¹Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

⁵²Ibid.

demand was all for light comedy; Mr. Favrot was a past master in training boys for either dramatic shows or comedies and his successful shows are subjects of conversation when old boys from S.V.A. or C.H.S. gather for a confab.⁵³

Some of the plays put on for the Commencement Exercises were the following:⁵⁴

- 1901 Pizarro
- 1902 William Tell
- 1903 Foscari
- 1912 Edward the Confessor
- 1917 Expiation
- 1921 Freedom of the Press
- 1926 The Unknown Guide
- 1929 His Father's Son

Commencement Day climaxed the school year. Awards and special recognition were duly given on that day to the deserving boys. As far as the writer can ascertain, the earliest medal awards were given after the session 1910-1911.⁵⁵ The medal winners for that year were: Joseph Sanchez, George Lefebvre, Stewart Booth, T. B. Kleinpeter, Fulbert Downey and Brian Arbour. A medal for athletics was donated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society and was awarded to A. J. Kihneman.⁵⁶

⁵³Brother Lambert, S.C., Letter to the Golden Bear, Vol. 9, No. 2, November 29, 1944.

⁵⁴Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

⁵⁵Ibid.

⁵⁶Ibid.

CURRICULUM

By 1915, the organization of classes had reached as far as the tenth grade. According to the school records, the first trial of the tenth grade addition was pronounced as "not successful."⁵⁷ However, the tenth grade was retained, and it was not long after 1915 that the eleventh grade was added. These grades, as established from 1894 to 1918, remained the school organization until 1946, when the twelve-year school plan was adopted in the State of Louisiana.⁵⁸

The earliest high school record book found among the school records showing courses and credit obtained dates back only to the year 1917. From this record, the writer has evidence that the eleven grade system was permanently established.⁵⁹ It has been mentioned above that the tenth grade was added in 1915 and the eleventh shortly after.

The curriculum in operation in 1917 was as follows:⁶⁰

Ninth Grade

Religion I
English (Rhetoric and Composition)
Medieval and Modern History
Elementary Algebra
French I
Physiology

Tenth Grade

Religion II
English (Rhetoric and Composition)
Civics
Plane Geometry
French II
Physical Geography
Typewriting

⁵⁷Ibid.

⁵⁸Ibid.

⁵⁹Ibid.

⁶⁰Catholic High School Records, Transcripts, 1917-1935.

Eleventh Grade (General)

Religion III
 English (Business Forms)
 Advanced Arithmetic
 Bookkeeping
 French III
 Shorthand

Eleventh Grade (Academic)

Religion III
 English (Literature and Class)
 Advanced Algebra
 Chemistry
 Physics
 French III

Further curriculum development is recorded in the High School Credit book dated from 1917 to 1935. The required credits listed for graduation in 1917 are listed in the following table.

TABLE I

REQUIRED UNITS FOR GRADUATION
 FOR THE SESSION 1917-1918⁶¹

General Course	Academic Course
English 4	English 4
Mathematics 3	Mathematics 4
Social Science 3	Social Sciences 2
Foreign Language 2 to 3	Foreign Language 2-3
Science 2	Science 2 to 4
Bookkeeping 1	Typing 1
Typing 1	
Shorthand 1	
16 Credits	16 Credits

⁶¹ibid.

STUDENT POPULATION

The enrollment records of St. Vincent's Academy show that the roll varied the first twenty years between one hundred students and one hundred and thirty on the average.⁶² After 1915, the roll steadily increased to almost two hundred students in 1921.⁶³ Table II, on the following page, gives the roll from 1894 to 1921, the first era of St. Vincent's Academy-Catholic High School.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

Brother Macarius succeeded Brother Felix as principal of St. Vincent's Academy in 1903.⁶⁴ He held this post for three years and was succeeded by Brother Fabian. Brother Fabian remained for three years and in turn was succeeded by Brother Matthias in 1909.⁶⁵

Baton Rouge, in 1910, was a small country town with about 12,000 inhabitants.⁶⁶ At this time, the school enrollment varied from about one hundred to one hundred and fifty. General business in town was poor and there was little chance for further development until the establishment

⁶²Catholic High School Records, Roll Book, 1894-1939.

⁶³Ibid.

⁶⁴Ibid.

⁶⁵Ibid.

⁶⁶Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., p. 242.

TABLE II
PUPIL ENROLLMENT 1894-1921⁶⁷

Scholastic Year	Roll
1894-95	106
1895-96	112
1896-97	178
1897-98	162
1898-99	146
1899-00	130
1900-01	127
1901-02	125
1902-03	129
1903-04	129
1904-05	105
1905-06	98
1906-07	104
1907-08	116
1908-09	143
1909-10	130
1910-11	120
1911-12	153
1912-13	171
1913-14	160
1914-15	147
1915-16	142
1916-17	135
1917-18	195
1918-19	170
1919-20	196
1920-21	199

⁶⁷Catholic High School Records, Roll Book, 1894-1939.

of the Standard Oil plant two years later.⁶⁸ Hence, prior to 1912 the tuition collected from the students was meager.⁶⁹

About this time, 1910, the school buildings were in constant need of immediate repair. The Brothers financed repairs on the buildings from the tuition money. This worked a hardship on the faculty, as money needed for their welfare was often used for purposes of building maintenance. The difficulties are best explained in the words of Brother Macarius, the second principal of St. Vincent's Academy.

The estimated cost of repairs was figured at \$1200. Now, the Brothers had helped to pay for the building and up to the present had made the repairs, but they felt they could no longer do so as their tuition receipts amounted to a salary of about \$35 to \$40 per man for ten months. They had agreed to teach twelve poor boys free yearly; but as no poor Catholic boy was ever refused the advantage of Catholic education, the number of free pupils far exceeded that number. Then, there were many at reduced prices. Considering these circumstances, the Brothers thought it an imposition on them to help the parish further with their meager funds. Still they offered to help to the extent of \$400. In the controversy that ensued, Father Solignac was willing to accept the \$400; but, while expressing his willingness to help the Brothers, claimed inability to do anything. The controversy continued till there was question of removing the Brothers from Baton Rouge. Happily, through the intervention of Archbishop Blenk, the parish took over the repairs and all was serene again.⁷⁰

An examination of the following table reveals the financial status of the school from the first foundation until 1913. The balance at the end of the year represented the money available for repairs and needed expenditures, the remainder of which was designated for the

⁶⁸Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., p. 243.

⁶⁹Ibid., p. 242.

⁷⁰Ibid., pp. 242-243.

TABLE III
TOTAL MONEY EXPENDED FOR REPAIRS AND
FACULTY PER YEAR (1894-1913)⁷¹

Year	Balance	Faculty
1894-95	\$ 000	4
1895-96	800.00	4
1896-97	400.00	6
1897-98	508.75	5
1898-99	378.90	4
1899-00	515.75	4
1900-01	361.75	4
1901-02	566.70	4
1902-03	512.95	4
1903-04	243.05	5
1904-05	396.90	4
1905-06	376.65	4
1906-07	1,146.73	5
1907-08	786.06	5
1908-09	548.04	4
1909-10	623.12	5
1910-11	533.09	4
1911-12	368.49	5
1912-13	(No Record)	6

⁷¹Catholic High School Records, Expense Book, 1891-1913.

salaries of the Brothers. The table further explains the quotation from Brother Macarius concerning financial difficulties.

SUMMARY

In 1944 a brief history of Catholic High School was written in the school publication, The Golden Bear.⁷² Letters from former principals were quoted at length in the golden anniversary publication. Two of these letters are quoted to indicate the spirit and organization of St. Vincent's Academy during the years 1894 to 1921.

Brother Matthias, S.C., principal of St. Vincent's Academy from 1908 to 1911, commenting on his days at old St. Vincent's wrote:

In thirty years many and great changes occur in both large and small cities. This fact is brought home to me by residents from Baton Rouge who visit our house of studies.*

These visitors ask me when it was that I lived in Baton Rouge; when they learn that it was in the first decade of the present century, they exclaim, "Oh that was when we had dirt roads." From this I infer that road improvements are a sign of progress and improvement. Still, Baton Rouge's progress is due to something more than road improvements.

Shortly before my departure from Baton Rouge rumor spread that Standard Oil Company had decided to fatten some of their golden calves by investing in the vicinity of Louisiana's State Capitol. Excitement ran high when this rumor became a fact. Since the coming of this great industrial company, no doubt the citizens have seen their most sanguine hopes more than realized.

The first workmen who came to install this great plant were from New Jersey. They brought their families along with them; some boys

⁷²The Golden Bear (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Catholic High School). Vol. 9, No. 2, November 29, 1944.

*Metuchen, New Jersey.

from the new families registered at SVA. At first the home pupils looked askance upon the newcomers, but in the course all went smoothly and boy-like the boys from New Jersey were chums of the Louisiana boys at school.

Despite the comparative small number of boys at school, there was an active interest in sports just as among any group of American boys. As LSU had a very successful football team, their victories were an incentive to our boys who took great interest in football.

The boys organized their own teams, and conducted them in the same manner as the big teams, making due allowance for age and size. In their love for sports, they put on a Field Day. Prizes were awarded - the gifts of the local business men, and proud indeed were the winners of these trophies.

In those days there was a Junior Order of Firemen and the boys took great pride in its membership. They turned out on Washington's birthday. The parade was followed by refreshments at the different members' houses. I do not recall whether any of these Juniors took an active part in any local fires, but as none of them were ever injured in the fires, I am inclined to believe that they kept at respectful distance and were mere spectators.

The course of studies of the school was so complete and comprehensive, and at such high caliber that at all times its graduates were admitted to either Tulane University or LSU and generally pursued their college courses with success and even distinction. In fact, some were permitted to enter the university even without having graduated from high school.⁷³

Mr. Cecil Bird, a prominent Baton Rouge attorney at the time of this writing, was one of the students of St. Vincent's that entered Louisiana State University and obtained his law degree without having graduated from high school.⁷⁴

Brother Charles, S.C., succeeded Brother Matthias as principal

⁷³Brother Matthias, S.C., Letter to the Golden Bear, Vol. 9, No. 2, November 29, 1944, p. 4.

⁷⁴Interview with Mr. Cecil Bird.

in 1911.⁷⁵ He remained as principal until 1916 when serious illness, from which he never recovered, caused his removal from the classroom and Baton Rouge.⁷⁶ Brother Charles was one of the more prominent principals of St. Vincent's Academy. "A man of splendid intellectual attainments, his company was sought by the most cultured circles. He had a wide acquaintance among distinguished Americans and numbered among his friends many known to fame and fortune."⁷⁷ In 1893, he won a trip to the Chicago World Fair in a newspaper-sponsored contest for "the most popular teacher."⁷⁸ Brother Charles died in 1917.⁷⁹

Brother Theodorus, S.C., replaced Brother Charles as principal in 1916.⁸⁰ In his letter to the Golden Bear for the golden anniversary, he wrote:

First, I will say that I recognized at once the great influence Brother Charles had over pupils and people. He had been admired, revered and loved by his pupils especially. While all those did not shine as super-students, I must say that they were all gentlemen and marked for their application and absolute submission to their teachers. I soon learned to love them and to esteem them. One of them in particular was to be admired and loved: Frank LeBlanc. He was a brilliant student - a 100% student. His record was perfect. Besides, he was quite an asset in the class, both for pupils and teacher. He was a born teacher - what an asset he would have been.

⁷⁵Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

⁷⁶Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., p. 243.

⁷⁷Freres Du Sacre Coeur, Annuaire de L'Institut des Freres du Sacre Coeur (Villa Telleri-Alde, Spain: Guipuzcoa, 1929), p. 290.

⁷⁸Ibid., p. 292.

⁷⁹Brothers of the Sacred Heart, loc. cit.

⁸⁰Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

in any teaching profession! Daily, no matter on what subject, his enthusiasm was such that he often begged me to go to the black-board and explain to the class any difficult problem.

An unusual thing which Brother Charles tolerated: during the morning recess, they had the habit to walk out rounding two or three blocks, but however, they were all back on time. While I did not approve of it, I don't think I tried to stop it. There was no bad effect remarked in the school body and their work did not suffer from it.

There was quite a family spirit throughout, and the boys loved to group about their teacher - or any Brother, and carry on a pleasant conversation. I cannot recall all by names right now, especially their first names. Allie Kleinpeter was an honor student and the type fitly representing his class. Most of the class had a good voice and would go up to the loft to do some worthwhile singing. We had some firemen in the school; as soon as the firebell was heard they made for the door and out to the fire. Should their absence be noticed by the captain or chief, they were fined a dime!

For assemblies we used to meet in Brother Cornelius' room, the one at the L, as it was the largest one in the building. Now I remember when Rev. Father Drosscart, the pastor at that time, used to come and gladly address the boys. He never failed to come, and on time. It was a treat for the boys. Father was so kind and considerate, so full of attention that we all longed for his return. He used to smile at a boy from "Dixie" - now Istrouma, I think. The district did not have the best reputation at that time, so he would say there are some good boys in DIXIE anyway.

Mac Hebert, afterwards acting president of Louisiana State University, generally had 100%, and he took special care in complimenting him. Brother Cornelius was specially liked: although teaching a lower class. It was very remarkable how the larger boys especially flocked around him during recess, or before school. Of course he had been so long at St. Vincent's he knew them all.

The town was then quite restricted: south it would go two or three blocks below North Boulevard; east, there was little beyond Catholic Cemetery. Our walks were up to the Y. and M. V. tracks, or down to what is now LSU.⁸¹

⁸¹Brother Theodorus, S.C., Letter to the Golden Bear, Vol. 9, No. 2, November 29, 1944, p. 4.

Brother Theodorus remained in Baton Rouge as principal until 1917, when Brother Isidore, S.C., was appointed to head St. Vincent's.⁸² Brother Isidore served as principal until 1920 and was replaced by Brother Louis-Emile, S.C.⁸³ In the following year, Father Leon Gassler was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.⁸⁴ In that year, 1921, the first era of St. Vincent's Academy came to a close and the new era began.

From 1894 to 1921, St. Vincent's Academy grew with the times into a fine educational institution. Its name was known among the Louisiana schools. Its graduates were finding their places in the world. Some of these, such as: Paul Mac Hebert, Dean of the Louisiana State Law School; Fred S. LeBlanc, State Attorney General; Cecil Bird, Baton Rouge attorney; Leo Heroman, Chief Accountant at Standard Oil (recently retired); Robert Bogan, Baton Rouge Fire Chief; Dr. Richard Salzer, Jack Persac and Roe Cangelosi of the city banks, and many others have given their old Alma Mater a fine name.

While the school was growing in educational standards and population, the physical plant began deteriorating. Father Gassler, the new pastor, a man with keen foresight and far-reaching vision, saw the need for a new and up-to-date school plant to replace the ancient buildings of the old academy. The planning and building program of

⁸²Catholic High School Records, loc. cit.

⁸³Ibid.

⁸⁴Father Gassler, op. cit., p. 128.

Father Cassler, was the dawn of a new era for St. Vincent's Academy and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart who taught there.

CHAPTER III

THE NEW CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

1921-1944

St. Vincent's Academy continued to grow so rapidly that by 1924, three years after the installation of Father Cassler as pastor of St. Joseph's Church, the enrollment had more than doubled.¹ The student body gradually outgrew the old buildings of St. Vincent's. The general development during the next ten years are best expressed by Brother Lambert, S.C., principal from 1924 to 1930.²

A period of six years, 1924 to 1930, witnessed the transition from St. Vincent's Academy to Catholic High School and it was the writer's privilege to be principal of St. Vincent's Academy when the change took place. Previously, I had been a member of St. Vincent's faculty for a few weeks in 1897 when Brother Felix was principal; during the last week of September in that year, yellow fever, the scourge of the South broke out along the Gulf Coast, and according to the custom of those days Baton Rouge declared quarantine against the world and all schools were closed. The Brothers of St. Vincent's, instead of teaching school, shouldered their shotguns and took their turn at mounting guard on the various roads leading into town; incidently they discovered some fine squirrel hunting in the neighboring woods. When school reopened in November, the number of students was somewhat diminished and my services being no longer needed in Baton Rouge, I was transferred to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, to replace one of the Brothers who had died during the yellow fever epidemic; so ended my connection with S.V.A. for many a year.

In the meantime, Baton Rouge expanded rapidly and S.V.A. grew in the same proportion; by 1924 the enrollment had more than doubled. Looking down the list of students in recent years we find many of the same names that were registered in those earlier years; among others the Heromans, Arbours, Fourriers, Persacs, Williams, Wax, Kleinpeters, Picous, Dohertys, LeBlancs, Roberts, Melancons, Wolfs,

¹Brother Lambert, S.C., Letter to the Golden Bear, Vol. 9, No. 2, November 29, 1944.

²Catholic High School Records, Roll Book, 1894-1939.

Seitz, Lusk, Selser, etc., etc. The students of Brothers Felix, Arthur, Firmin, David, Charles, Adelard, Ludovic, Justinian, etc., thought so much of the education they received at S.V.A. that the training of their sons would be entrusted to no one but the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

By 1927 the student body had grown to such an extent that a new plant became an absolute necessity. With the approval of the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph's Church, Msgr. Francis L. Gassler had plans drawn by Mr. Wm. Nolan for an auditorium, a school building to accommodate 450 pupils and a residence for 12 Brothers. All were convinced, at the time, that the educational needs of the Catholic boys of Baton Rouge would be taken care of for years to come, but we had not reckoned on the phenomenal growth of the Capital City. Within a few years, Catholic High School, as S.V.A. was now called, had overflowed into the basement of St. Joseph's Church; next the Peabody building, loaned by the State Authorities, furnished school rooms for four grammar grades, and finally the home of the Catholic Women's Club was bought by the parish and remodeled for classrooms.³

PREPARATIONS FOR BUILDING

By the 1920's the need for a new school plant for St. Vincent's Academy was generally realized. The student body had outgrown the old buildings, which had deteriorated through the years and at this time were deemed beyond the state of repair.⁴ Monsignor Gassler, in frequent consultations with Brother Lambert, S.C., principal of St. Vincent's Academy, spent much time in planning a modern, up-to-date school plant.⁵ In the Book of Minutes, dated December 20, 1927, it is found that the trustees of St. Joseph's Church met in special session to discuss ways

³Brother Lambert, S.C., loc. cit.

⁴Brothers of the Sacred Heart, A Century of Service for the Sacred Heart in the United States (New Orleans: n.n., 1947), p. 245.

⁵Francis L. Gassler, History of St. Joseph's Church (Harrero: The Hope Haven Press, 1943), p. 163.

and means for the erection of an up-to-date school."⁶ Thus, before any architect was called in for consideration, the proposed school buildings and their equipment were completely discussed by the pastor, principal and Board of Trustees. Monsignor Gassler relied greatly on the experience of Brother Lambert for the construction of the new building.⁷ Mr. William Nolan, the architect for the new Baton Rouge Public High School was selected to supervise the construction of the new Catholic High School plant.⁸

FINAL LAND SETTLEMENT

After the architect, Mr. William Nolan, had been called in and the approximate cost of building ascertained, the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph's Church met to negotiate a loan for the project. The loan company informed the members of the board that the loan at 5 per cent would be made only if they could show the property of St. Vincent's Academy to be without restriction.⁹ They demanded a clear title.

Upon examination, it was found that the property restored to St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Baton Rouge by the United States Government in 1894 still had a claim over it, by which the government could at any

⁶Archives, St. Joseph's Church, Book of Minutes.

⁷Gassler, loc. cit.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Archives, St. Joseph's Church, loc. cit.

time merge this property with the property of the old Louisiana State University, now the Louisiana State Capitol grounds.¹⁰

Mention of the property question concerning the land upon which the old St. Vincent's Academy was built and upon which the present Catholic High School now stands was made in Chapter I. The final settlement is best expressed in the words of the late Monsignor Cassler, the historian of St. Joseph's Church, in that it was during his pastorate of St. Joseph's that the land finally became title free.

The board lost no time in getting in touch with our congressman, the late Mr. Bolivar E. Kemp, to have him take the necessary steps for obtaining a clear title. Mr. Kemp (may God rest his soul, for he surely worked hard) lost no time. Quite a voluminous correspondence on the subject adorns the Book of Minutes. He had already wired us that the act of Congress would shortly be passed, when he made an urgent appeal to send a delegation to Washington where, he thought, Senator Heflin of Alabama had shown signs opposing the measure.

Thereupon, the board delegated Father Dominic Blasco, at that time the first assistant at St. Joseph's, together with the late Fred Grace and Mr. (now Judge) Dewey Sanchez to proceed to Washington without delay. Mr. Grace, as the official registrar of the land office of Louisiana, went prepared with all the documents and maps bearing on the question. Senators Joseph E. Ransdell and Edwin E. Broussard also were asked to lend their help to Mr. Kemp, and to obtain for the delegation a hearing.

Mr. Kemp, on March 13, 1928, introduced a bill - H. R. No. 12,041. Already, on May 11, he was able to inform us that the bill had passed the Senate. In this, Mr. Kemp was partly misinformed. It is true that Senator Heflin had kept in the background, but that a strong opposition had developed from one of the senators of Georgia who objected strongly to the passage of the bill.

The board of trustees kept the wires hot. Numerous influential persons were requested to use their influence in helping Mr. Kemp. Finally, on May 23, 1928, Mr. Kemp wired that the bill had passed

¹⁰Cassler, op. cit., p. 165.

both houses, and that it had been sent to the president for his signature. And thus ended the last battle for the recovery of the former graveyard, known as EL CEMENTARIO DE LA IGLESIA DE LA VIRGIN DES LAS DOLORES - the land as originally granted to the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows by the Spanish crown, in 1789.¹¹

The clearing of the title to the land upon which the school now stands gives Catholic High School a uniqueness in romantic history of its grounds. Possibly no school land in the state of Louisiana is richer in historic lore. Walter L. Fleming in his history of Louisiana State University borrowed from the catalogues of the University the following excerpt, dated 1883.

The site of the University is historic ground; over it hovers the romance of the struggles of the Great Powers for supremacy in the Mississippi Valley. These extensive grounds and splendid buildings, the princely gift of our national government, were occupied successively by the armed battalions of France, England, Spain, and America.

Here, in 1779, Galvez, the Spanish Governor General of Louisiana, after three days' battle, captured the British garrison under Col. Dickinson.

Here, in 1810, Philemon Thomas, with his mixed band of pine-woodsmen and Ohio flatboatmen, captured the Spanish post, killing Grandpre, its commander, and wresting West Florida from Spain.

Here, nearly every prominent officer in the United States army since the Revolution did duty. Wilkinson and the first Wade Hampton, Revolutionary heroes, commanded here; as did afterwards Gaines and Jesup and Taylor, heroes of the war of 1812.

Here Winfield Scott, the conqueror of Mexico, saw his first service as lieutenant of artillery.

Here Lafayette was received by the military citizens in 1824, and Andrew Jackson later.

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 165-167.

Here was the home of Zachary Taylor, hero of Buena Vista and President of the United States, and of his brilliant son, "Dick," the distinguished Confederate general.

Here in 1861, the Louisiana State Guard, before the secession of Louisiana, took the garrison and the arsenal, with all their munitions of war, from the United States troops.

Here in 1862, General Breckenridge, commanding the Confederates, fought a desperate battle with the Union army and navy under Williams and Farragut. Williams was killed and the Confederate ram Arkansas was blown up in full view.

These grounds were trod by Grant and Lee, Sherman and "Stonewall" Jackson; by McClellan and the Johnstons, Bragg and Rosecrans; by Longstreet and Harney; George H. Thomas and Beauregard; by Forrest and Phil Sheridan, Hardee and Hood; by Hancock and Custer, Admiral Porter and Bishop-General Polk; and by the great civilians, Clay and Calhoun, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis.

'Loose thy shoe from off thy foot, for the place whereon thou standest is holy.'¹²

The writer includes the above quotation because the present school property was also once a part of the above mentioned land.

FINANCES AND THE BUILDING PROGRAM

Along with the property settlement of 1928 came the all-important question of financing the tremendous project of building a new school plant. St. Joseph's Church still had an indebtedness of \$23,000.00 from the remodeling done by Father Gassler in 1923 and 1924.¹³ The new plans called for:

¹²Walter L. Fleming, Louisiana State University, 1860-1896 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1936), pp. 440-441, citing Catalogues of Louisiana State University, 1883.

¹³Gassler, op. cit., pp. 128-129.

School Building	\$ 80,220.00
Gymnasium	112,380.00
Faculty Residence	49,880.00
Equipment and Incidentals	<u>34,520.00</u>
Total	\$277,000.00 ¹⁴

The total property of St. Joseph's Church and St. Vincent's Academy was duly mortgaged. The property value was \$277,000.00.¹⁵ Mr. John B. Heroman of the class of '98, handled the bond issue. Coupon bonds were issued in denominations of \$1,000.00 or \$500.00, or in denominations to suit the purchaser. Interest was paid semi-annually.¹⁶ It was in the face of this huge debt that the building program finally got under way. The complete bond issue will be found in the Appendix at the end of this volume.

The term 1928-1929 "will ever remain engraved on the minds of the pupils who started the new term in an old, abandoned gymnasium, located in the neighborhood of where our magnificent state capitol now stands."¹⁷ Governor Huey P. Long (1928-1931)¹⁸ graciously loaned the old Louisiana

¹⁴Bond Issue Notes from the file of Mr. John B. Heroman.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Interview with Mr. John B. Heroman, class of '98.

¹⁷Cassler, op. cit., p. 167.

¹⁸Huey P. Long, Every Man A King (New Orleans: National Book Co., Inc., 1933), p. 105.

State University gymnasium to St. Vincent's for school purposes during the construction of the new school.¹⁹ Temporary class rooms were put together. As there were no heating facilities, the students were frequently sent out into the open for physical exercises to "warm up." Happily, the students escaped the onsets of the influenza, which during the fall of 1928 was ravaging the entire country.²⁰

Much progress had been made in the new buildings and because of the intense cold in the early months of 1929, the pupils had to be transferred to the unfinished school building. The contractors, Sandquist and Snow, fortunately made rooms available so that classes could continue without interruption.²¹

The new school was first occupied in January of 1929.²² The plant was completely finished late in the same year. It was at this time that the school became known as Catholic High School for Boys. The name academy was dropped because, by this time, the term usually applied to a girls' school and it was deemed somewhat of a handicap.²³ However, the grand old name of St. Vincent's Academy has been perpetuated by the large escutcheon "S.V.A." just above the arch of the stage in the gym-auditorium.

¹⁹Gassler, loc. cit.

²⁰Brothers of the Sacred Heart, op. cit., p. 246.

²¹Gassler, op. cit., p. 168.

²²Brothers of the Sacred Heart, loc. cit.

²³Gassler, op. cit., p. 170.

The flag pole in the front of the school was donated by Mr. John B. Heroman, class of '98, in memory of his deceased father.²⁴ The following letter was sent to Mr. Heroman in recognition of his donation.

On behalf of the Catholic High School for Boys, and also in the name of St. Joseph's Church to which the school buildings belong, I gratefully accept your donation of the flag pole which you had erected on the high school grounds, at your own expense, in perpetual memory of your deceased father, the late Mr. F. W. Heroman. Your generous donation is hereby gratefully acknowledged and its acceptance has been duly noted in the Book of Minutes, kept by the Corporation of St. Joseph's Congregation.

F. L. Cassler
Rector²⁵

In the vestibule of the high school building, the following inscription is found on a bronze plaque:

IN MEMORIAM

This Catholic High School for Boys, together with the Brothers' residence and gymnasium, were erected in 1928-1929 by the Congregation of the St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, of Baton Rouge.

This herculean task was accomplished through the generosity and good will of the numerous friends of venerable old St. Joseph's who assisted the Congregation to carry the heavy financial burden.

May the Almighty God reward them all.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Most Rev. J. N. Shaw D.D. Archbishop, President
Rt. Rev. Bishop J. N. Laval V.G. Vice President
Rt. Rev. F. L. Cassler V.F. & Rector, Sec'y-Treas.
Joseph Gebelin & Jno. B. Heroman, Lay Trustees

²⁴Letter from Msgr. F. L. Cassler to John B. Heroman, May 26, 1930. Private collection of John B. Heroman.

²⁵Ibid.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, VIZ.

Andrew Bahlinger, Jr.

D. I. Casadessus

Lionel A. Champagne

St. Geo. Hines

A. MoB. Jackson

William T. Nolan, New Orleans, Architect
 Sandquist & Snow Inc., Alexandria, Contractors
 Brasher & Rombach, Baton Rouge, Plumbing & Heating²⁶

STUDENT POPULATION

As shown in Table III the enrollment had reached 199 by 1921. At the time of the building of the new Catholic High School, the roll reached 295.²⁷ September, 1929 found a record enrollment of 320 students.²⁸ with the exception of a few years, shown in Table IV, the enrollment continued to rise until it reached 699 in the fall of the jubilee year, 1944.²⁹ Table IV, on the following page, shows the enrollment from 1921 to 1944.

CLASSES AND CURRICULUM

Since its formation, St. Vincent's Academy, the fore-runner of Catholic High School, took in grammar school students as well as high school students.³⁰ In the early days of the school, as mentioned in Chapter II, the students were divided into the lower classes and the

²⁶Bronze Plaque, Vestibule, Catholic High School.

²⁷Catholic High School Records, Roll Book, loc. cit.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Catholic High School Records, Roll Book, 1934-1947.

TABLE IV
STUDENT POPULATION (1921-1944)³¹

School Year	Enrollment
1921-22	210
1922-23	172
1923-24	202
1924-25	217
1925-26	218
1926-27	215
1927-28	256
1928-29	295
1929-30	320
1930-31	293
1931-32	291
1932-33	353
1933-34	459
1934-35	517
1935-36	582
1936-37	619
1937-38	604
1938-39	669
1939-40	633
1940-41	591
1941-42	570
1942-43	618
1943-44	624
1944-45	699

³¹Catholic High School Records, Roll Book, log. cit.

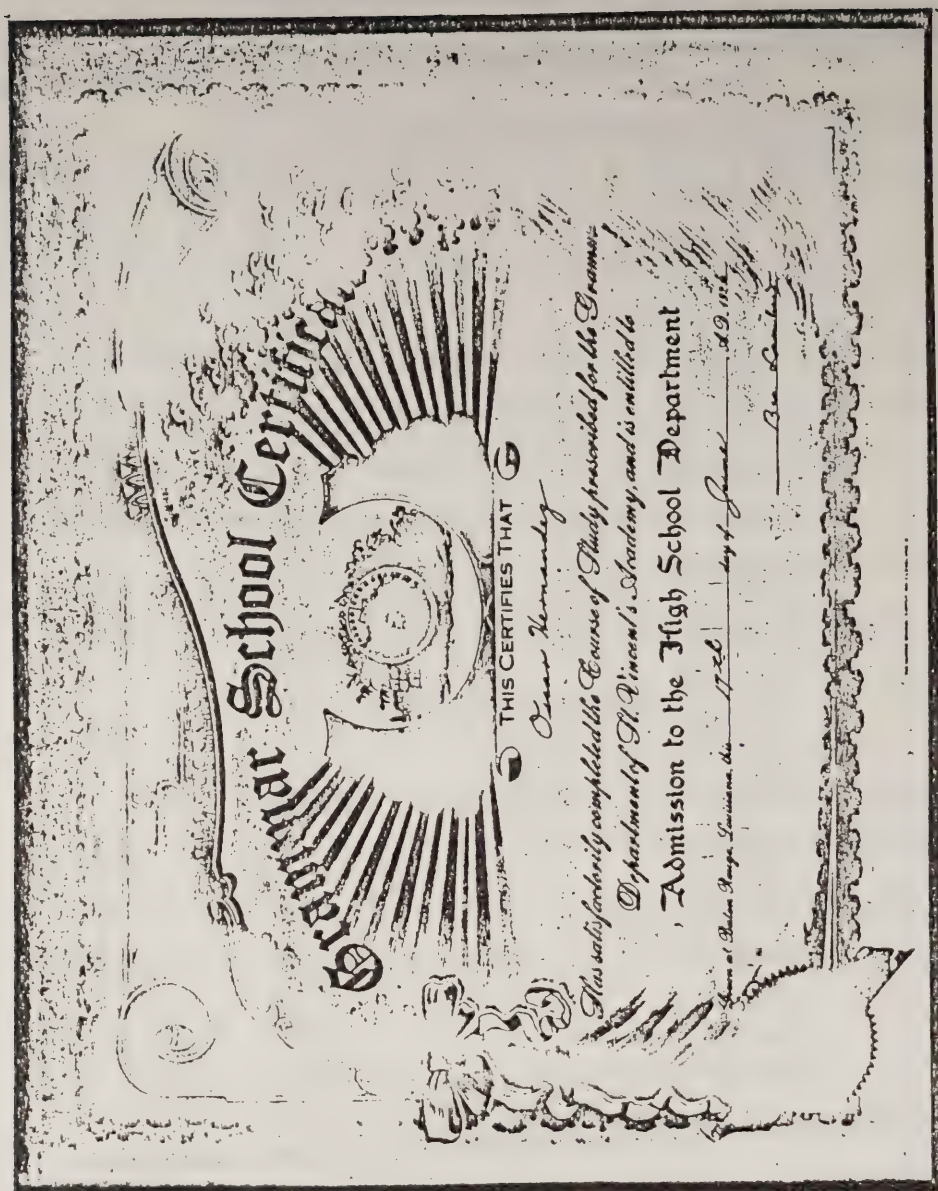


FIGURE 2
GRAMMAR SCHOOL DIPLOMA OF OSCAR HERNANDEZ, 1926

In 1938 elementary science was included, but it was dropped in 1942.³⁷

The high school curriculum was much the same as listed in the official units for graduation in Chapter II. Latin I and II were added in 1931.³⁸ By 1932, a new transcript was made out for the High School department, adding a few new subjects. Table V shows the transcript form, giving the number of weeks a subject was to be studied, the periods per week and the minutes per period.

It was also during this time that a separate division appeared in the curriculum for the high school.³⁹ The courses offered were academic and commercial. Table VI shows the courses and credits required for graduation and elective courses.

For completion of the English courses, all upper classmen were given a list of books to choose from and were required to hand in nine book reports during the school year.⁴⁰ A typical list taken from the records for Claire Guitreaux, in 1930, was as follows:⁴¹

Seventeen - Tarkington

Uncle Tom's Cabin - Stowe

Glengarry Schooldays - Connor

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Catholic High School Records, Transcript Book.

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Ibid.

TABLE V
OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF CREDITS 1932⁴²

Subject	Weeks	Periods per Week	Class Period
Religion	38	5	30
English	38	5	50
Arithmetic	38	5	50
Algebra	38	5	50
Plane Geometry	38	5	50
Solid Geometry	18	5	55
Trigonometry	18	5	55
Com'. Geography	19	5	45
Louisiana Studies	19	5	45
Citizenship	36	5	50
American History	36	5	50
Ancient History	36	5	50
Medieval History	36	5	50
Modern History	36	5	50
Latin	36	5	50
French	36	5	50
Spanish	36	5	50
General Science	36	5	60
Physiography	36	5	60
Chemistry	36	5	60
Physics	36	5	60
Typewriting	36	5	45
Shorthand	36	5	50
Bookkeeping	36	5	50
Physical Training	36	5	30

⁴²Catholic High School Records, Grade Book.

TABLE VI
 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION IN THE
 ACADEMIC AND COMMERCIAL COURSES*
 (1934-1935)⁴³

Academic	Commercial	Electives
Religion	Religion	
English 4	English 4	Spanish 2
Mathematics 4	Mathematics 3	French 3
Social Studies 2	Social Studies 2	Social Studies 6
Science 2	Science 1	Science 1
Latin 2	Language 2	
Phys. Ed. 1	Commerce 3	

*16 units required for graduation.

⁴³ Catholic High School Records, Transcript Book.

Oregon Trail - Parkman

Gentleman from Indiana - Tarkington

Leagues Under the Sea - Verne

Mother - Norris

Alice Adams - Tarkington

Man Without a Country - Hale

One book report had to be handed in for each month of school.⁴⁴

In the science department the physics and chemistry students were required to complete the list of experiments set by the instructor at the beginning of the school session. The schedule of experiments was easily carried out in the new and spacious science laboratory. The west end of the room had tiers facing the demonstration table. The remainder of the room contained eight work tables, fully equipped for four students at each table, cabinets and closets for surplus equipment. The lists of experiments were kept in the high school credit book.

The following is a list of the Physics Experiments required of each student.⁴⁵

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Measurement-Length | 8. Specific Gravity-Solids |
| 2. Density of Wood | 9. Specific Gravity-Liquids |
| 3. Straight Lever | 10. Mercury Barometer |
| 4. Parallel Forces | 11. Boyle's Law |
| 5. Inclined Plane | 12. Concurrent Forces |
| 6. Block and Tackle | 13. Hooke's Law |
| 7. Buoyancy-Liquids | 14. Micrometer Caliper |

⁴⁴ Interview with Brother Linus, S.C., Faculty 1932-40.

⁴⁵ Catholic High School Records, Transcript Book.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 15. Pendulum | 26. Wheatstone Bridge |
| 16. Thermometer | 27. Magnetic Effect of Current |
| 17. Linear Expansion | 28. Induced Currents |
| 18. Specific Heat | 29. Generator, Motor |
| 19. Heat, Melting Ice | 30. Tuning Fork-Frequency |
| 20. Heat of Condensation | 31. Wave Length |
| 21. Magnetic Lines of Force | 32. Vibratory Strings |
| 22. E.M.F. Voltaic Cell | 33. Image-Plane Mirror |
| 23. Polarization | 34. Image-Cylindrical Mirror |
| 24. Voltage-Variable | 35. Refraction |
| 25. Resistance | 36. Focal Length |
| | 37. Shape, Size, Real Image |

The chemistry students had a few more experiments to cope with than the physics students. There were forty-nine in number and were as follows:⁴⁶

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Preliminary | 26. Oxidation-Reduction |
| 2. Bunsen Burner | 27. Sulfur, Properties |
| 3. Properties | 28. Sulphur, Dioxide |
| 4. Density | 29. Sulfuric Acid |
| 5. Physical and Chemical Properties | 30. Chlorine |
| 6. Mixtures, Compounds | 31. Hydrogen Sulfide |
| 7. Physical Properties, Metals | 32. Hydrochloric Acid |
| 8. Chemical Properties, Metals | 33. Ammonia Hydroxide |
| 9. Manipulation, Glass Tubing | 34. Nitric Acid |
| 10. Preparation of Oxygen | 35. Phosphorus |
| 11. Properties of Oxygen | 36. Acids, Properties |
| 12. Slow Oxidation | 37. Hydrolysis |
| 13. Combustion in air | 38. Crystallization |
| 14. Composition of air | 39. Soluble Chlorides |
| 15. Metallic Oxides | 40. Speed of Reaction |
| 16. Physical Properties of Water | 41. Chemical Equilibrium |
| 17. Chemical Properties of Water | 42. Disturbing Chemical Equilibrium |
| 18. Solutions | 43. Writing Inks |
| 19. Methods of Separation | 44. Flame Tests-Ions |
| 20. Ionization | 45. Halogens |
| 21. Hydroxides, Preparation | 46. Halogens-Comparison |
| 22. Hydroxides, Properties | 47. Displacement Series |
| 23. Chemical Equations | 48. Reduction, Metal Ores |
| 24. Carbon | 49. Soaps |
| 25. Carbon Dioxide | |

ACTIVITIES

During the early years of the school, activities were limited to a few athletic events and the plays enacted for the graduation exercises. The old school organization did not allow too many activities as these were considered frivolous and not conducive to the mental discipline in the learning process of fifty years ago.⁴⁷

Even as late as 1924, rigidness was the general order of the day. Brother Columban, S.C., principal for a short time in 1924, wrote the following letter to the Golden Bear for the fiftieth anniversary of the school in 1944.

In the summer of 1923, the Principal of St. Vincent's Academy, Brother Louis-Emile, visited his relatives in Europe, and having delayed in returning to Baton Rouge for the reopening of school, I was ordered to take over the management of affairs until the Principal should return.

These duties were at once begun, and with the help of Brothers Cornelius and Arnold we managed to have everything in good shape for the usual opening day. Meanwhile, Brother Bertrand came to our assistance as the fourth member of the Faculty, but we still had no teacher for the Junior Class.

Regardless of this shortage, we went ahead and without undue difficulties, managed to have everything in running order. Finally the Junior teacher, Brother Cyprian, arrived.

The Senior Class of that year was composed of the following: Mac Hebert, afterwards acting president of La. State University; John Wax, James Lockwood, Barker Landry, Cleve Le Blanc, and others. Memory does not recall all of them. Of the Junior Class, I can recall: Allie Kleinpeter, Willard Arbour, St. George Mines, Dupuy, Bourgeois, and some other "studious" members.

⁴⁷Interview with Brother Wilfrid, Faculty 1916.

The Senior Class of '24 left in our memory the following impressions: they are credited with having been "top-notchers" in mastering the contents of a text-book, especially if it treated of some branch of mathematics. And another point in their favor was that while they realized they had this ability, they did not hesitate to admit that Brother Cyprin, their former teacher, had contributed in great measure to their skill in acquiring it.

In the line of athletics, except in tennis, the large boys of those days had little opportunity to gather laurels, for the comparatively small number of "huskies" precluded the possibility of competing with public school teams of city or parish. Besides, L.U. being located just behind the back hedge, our students indulged with pleasure their tendency to hero-worship afforded by the cinder-path beyond or the drill field across the University campus. 'As LSU goes, so goes the world,' seemed to be the motto. But this city-wide tendency to follow the cadets proved a bit embarrassing at times for class '24 must recall that on one occasion they worshipped somewhat too long, and arriving in class after the first period was over, were compelled to "mount guard" along the old gallery facing the school-rooms with faces buried in an open book, for several periods thereafter; we need not say the "kidding" of the younger set beyond the pickets fence did not add greatly to senior dignity.

And so, the session passed quietly along, with a holiday or circus day breaking the monotony, now and then, besides one or two dramatic performances by the upper classes held at S.J.A.

If memory serves, we closed the year's work about the 18th of June, with the graduation of the senior class and awarding of promotion cards to a large majority of the students.⁴⁸

Commencement Days. The school year was always climaxed by the Commencement Day exercises. As mentioned in Chapter II, the plays were enacted by the graduates under the direction of Mr. St. Clair Favrot. Some of the productions were also cited in Chapter II. Happily, the names of the plays produced were recorded each year in the summary at the end of the enrollment list in the record books. Besides listing the

⁴⁸ Brother Columban, S.C., Letter to the Golden Bear, Vol. 9, No. 2, November 29, 1944.

plays, a complete list of awards was made, giving the names of the donors and the proud recipients of these awards. A typical entry found in the record book is that for June, 1929.

The following were the "grads" Williard A. Bourdier, J. R. Finn Day, James A. Durand, Fr. L. Fourrier, Jno. B. Heroman, Jr., Jno. C. Kleinpeter, Evans J. Melancon, Jos. A. Nyhand, Clifford J. Normand, Carl P. E. Roberts (sal.), St. Clair Rodriguez, Richard E. Selzer (valedictorian), Edw. Corona, Clarence A. Ledig.

The first class to graduate from the new Catholic High School, formerly S.V.A. We moved into the new school Jan. 14, 1929. Whilst the new school was being built we had classes in L.S.U.'s old gym on Little North St. (some building).

35 Commencement:- The Exercises were held at the Baton Rouge High School. The address to the graduates was made by Rev. Father C. F. Bauvais of St. Francisville, La.

The Scholarship to L.S.U. was won by Rich. E. Selzer. "His Father's Son" was staged by the "grads" under the direction of Mr. St. Clair Favrot. Prof. J. A. Fourrier directed the singing.

The Donors of Medals were as follows:-Farrnbacher Dry Goods Co., Rev. Father Gassler, Catholic Daughters of America; Knights of Columbus; Krone Bros. of Hackensack, N. J.; St. Margaret Daughters; A Friend; Rosenfields Dry Goods Co.; Eugene Cazedessus; A Friend.

The medal for attendance in the High School Dep't. was won by Robt. Braud. In the Grammar School by Chas. H. Braud.

For Application in	4th yr.	High won by	Jno. Kleinpeter
	3rd yr.	" " "	Austin Mathews
	2nd yr.	" " "	Joe Berthelot
	1st yr.	" " "	Alcee Altazin

7th Grade won by	Steve Blouin
6th " " "	Jno. Jollissaint
5th " " "	A. J. Orillion
4th " " "	Ruvine Laborde
3rd " " "	J. D. LeBlanc

The Bros. moved into their new residence July 10. Temporary quarters were at 531 North St. Russell Daigle, Raphael Cavell, and

Louis Gibbens went to Metuchen, Apr. 1st. Allie Brashear went June 19.⁴⁹

The entry just quoted was taken from one of the school record books. The entries date back to the first session 1894-1895, the first of the permanent establishment of the school. Many of the entries as the one above were written more as a log than an official record.

The Exercises for the thirty-fifth commencement were important, in that the graduating class of 1929 was the first to graduate from the new Catholic High School.⁵⁰ This graduating class left as a memento to the school a beautiful life-size statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which now adorns the center of the main hallway on the first floor of the school, facing the foyer and entrance from North Street.

Brother Lambert, principal during the building period, stated further in his letter previously quoted from the Golden Bear of 1944:

The Exercises for the 36th Annual Commencement in 1930 marked a notable departure in the history of S.V.A. and C.H.S. for two reasons; viz., it was the first time that Graduates received their diplomas in the new Catholic High Auditorium and for the first time joint exercises were held with St. Joseph's Academy. The address to the graduates was made by the Hon. Fred S. LeBlanc who had graduated under Brother Charles, at S.V.A. in 1916. Mr. LeBlanc was at this period a practicing attorney; later he was elected mayor of Baton Rouge and at present he is Attorney-General for the State of Louisiana; as Fred is still a young man, and a man of proven ability, we expect still higher positions in the service of the state and country. S.V.A. may well be proud of its Alumni!⁵¹

⁴⁹Catholic High School Records, Roll Book, loc. cit.

⁵⁰Ibid.

⁵¹Brother Lambert, loc. cit.

Catholic High School



This Certifies that

Oscar Hernandez

Having completed the Course of Study as prescribed by this Institution, a State-Approved Private High School,
is entitled to this



Scores at Nation Range, Louisiana this tenth day of June, A. D., One thousand nine hundred thirty.

E. D. Gaylor
PASTOR

Bin Lambert
PRINCIPAL

FIGURE 3

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OF OSCAR HERNANDEZ, 1930

Fred S. LeBlanc won the Louisiana State University Free Scholarship in 1916, having obtained the highest average in the final examinations for the senior class of St. Vincent's Academy for that year.⁵² At the present writing, Mr. Fred LeBlanc is serving once more as Attorney-General for the State of Louisiana.

Commencement Day Exercises are still popular, though the day of the stage is past in connection with graduation. Catholic High School staged its last commencement play in 1929.⁵³

The Band. The Golden Bear Band was organized in the summer of 1932. Mr. Hypolite T. Landry was the first director. He was aided in his work by Brother Oliver, S.C., who taught the students individually before they came together for their practices. The band totaled seventy-six pieces, thirty-seven of which formed a drum and bugle corp. The first uniforms were simple, a white uniform with an orange and black cape topped off with a cap of the same colors. They were led by Jack Winston, the drum major.⁵⁴

Later, in 1934 the band was led by Steve Borne, drum major, who went to national fame as a baton twirler. While still a student in 1934, Steve Borne was asked to perform with the Louisiana State University

⁵²Catholic High School Records, Roll Book, log. sit.

⁵³Ibid.

⁵⁴The Golden Bear, (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Catholic High School), Vol. 1, No. 2, February, 1933.

Band during the Oregon-Louisiana State University football game.⁵⁵

The band grew in popularity and was asked to perform for many public functions. By 1940, the band became quite proficient and at the state band concert held in Alexandria, Saturday, April 20, the Catholic High School Band was awarded a rating of "superior" in marching, "excellent" in sight-reading, and "very good" in concert.⁵⁶

Regular concerts were held twice a year, one for Christmas and another in the spring. These were well attended by the public.

In 1942, the band was rated "superior" in sight-reading, "excellent" in concert and marching, and Aubrey Lewis, the drum major, also received a "superior" award for his efforts.⁵⁷

The School Paper. The first school paper edited by the students was published in November, 1932. It was brought about by the persuasion of the St. Vincent's Academy Alumni Association in meeting with Brother Peter, S.O., the principal.⁵⁸ The paper, a six-page tabloid, was called the "Golden Bear."⁵⁹ The name was taken from the nickname of the athletic teams. A copy of the first edition is in the school library. The motto

⁵⁵Golden Bear (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Catholic High School), Vol. 3, No. 3, December, 1934.

⁵⁶Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 4, No. 5, May, 1940.

⁵⁷Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 6, No. 6, May, 1942.

⁵⁸Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 1, No. 1, December, 1932.

⁵⁹Ibid.

of the school paper was, "To Make Catholic High Better for Every Student and Every Student Better for Catholic High."⁶⁰ The first editorial staff was composed of the following students:

EDITORIAL STAFF⁶¹

Editor-in-chief	J. Burton LeBlanc '33
Associate Editors	Henry Jolly '33, Oscar Micaud '33, L. C. Heroman '33, Bernard Manuel '32
Exchange Editor	James Bourgeois '33
Assistant Exchange Editor	Anthony Abraham '33
Sporting Editor	James Dominguez '33
Chief Reporter	Clifford Doiron '33
Reporters	James Brousseau '34, James Hebert '35, Thomas Hebert '36, Joseph Cassie '38, Wm. Robinson '37

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager	Carl Plitt '33
Assistant Business Manager	Maunsell Brousseau '33
Advertising Manager	A. K. McGrew '33
Assistant Advertising Managers . . .	F. Hitzman '33, Sam Graphia '33
Advertising Solicitors	Angelo Montagnino '33, Fred Heroman '36
Circulation Manager	Tom Ed. Weiss '33
Assistant Circulation Manager . . .	Edwin Davis '33

In 1952 it was decided to discontinue the school paper in favor of the school annual. The Bruin, as the annual was called, was first published in 1948. Further discussion of this publication is made in Chapter IV.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

The Confraternity. The confraternity was the school's spiritual organization. There are no written records of this organization before 1932, but this spiritual organization formerly known as the "sodality" has existed for years in the Brothers' schools.⁶² The purpose of this organization was to promote better Christian living amongst its members. Religious topics were discussed and the best methods of living the Christian life. Parliamentary procedure was the order for all its meetings. The student head of the organization was known as the prefect. At all times a faculty member was appointed as moderator. There was also a secretary and treasurer.

The Military. Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, the talk among the school people was concerned with the question of universal military training. In line with this, Catholic High under the leadership of Brother Casimir, S.C., principal in 1943, established in April of that year an R. O. T. C. unit.⁶³

Cadet Officers from Louisiana State University led by Colonel Musso organized the boys into various drill squads and began a training program. The military was conducted three days a week. Uniforms of khaki, similar to that of the United States Army, adorned with cadet chevrons, were worn on military days.⁶⁴

⁶²Interview with Brother Wilfrid, S.C., Faculty 1916.

⁶³Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 7, No. 3, April, 1943.

⁶⁴Ibid.

The cadet officers for the University were high in their praise of the interest and cooperation shown.

I have never seen a group of high school students become so proficient in such a short time. And cooperation? Say, you boys should be proud to have the Brothers as teachers. I was not so fortunate but I can see the excellent work that the Brothers are doing. When any of us speak to you boys, you are all attention. It's not that way in most other schools. Many of our fellow cadet officers complain that they have to spend nearly all of their time trying to enforce discipline. Here at Catholic High, we arrive in the morning and within a few minutes all boys are in ranks and ready for a brisk, snappy drill. Be proud of your school and of your teachers, and quote me as saying that you fellows are the grandest bunch of disciplined high school students that most of us have ever seen.⁶⁵

The Coronation. The coronation is the top social event of the year at Catholic High School. It was inaugurated and sponsored by the Catholic High Mothers' Club in 1940.⁶⁶ The first coronation was held in the gymnasium on the night of April 26, 1940.⁶⁷ Maurice Maranto reigned as King Louis I. Miss Christine Todd was Queen Anne. After elaborate coronation ceremonies held on the stage, the event was culminated by a dance which lasted until midnight. The king won his position by means of votes.⁶⁸ Since then, the coronation has been held each year in the spring.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 4, No. 5, May, 1940.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

In April, 1943 the first Junior Coronation was held for the grammar school.⁶⁹ From 1943 on, the two coronations have been held one week apart in the spring.

Athletics. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the old St. Vincent's Academy had little to do with sports activities other than those confined to their own campus. Though not mentioned in Brother Columban's letter, there is evidence that football and baseball and basketball did exist, at least to a small degree in the early days of the school.⁷⁰ Mr. John B. Heroman of the class of 1898 presented the writer with a picture of the 1898 football team of which he and Mr. Brantley Fourrier are the only living members today. The members of this first football team were:

John B. Heroman

Brantley Fourrier

Grover Nesbit

Edward Roberts

Phil P. Huyek

Albert Jolly

Ally Smith

Willy Rodry

George Kreath

⁶⁹Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 7, No. 3, April, 1943.

⁷⁰Interview with Mr. John B. Heroman, class '98.

Leon Pujol

Frank Danna

George Seese

Ly Randolph⁷¹

In regard to baseball, Mr. Heroman stated that the boys formed their own baseball team and took the name of the school. There was no regular league in those days, so they played any team that would consent to play them. Some of the teams played were: Louisiana State University, Donaldsonville, Plaquemine, Zachary and Woodville.⁷²

In the 1930's, Catholic High School had a baseball team of renown in the local circles. Dr. Joseph C. Nolan coached this team to the American Legion District Baseball Championship in 1933 and again in 1934.⁷³ The boys that played on Dr. Joseph Nolan's Champion Baseball Club were:

Sam D'Agostino	Third Base
Max Gianelloni	Shortstop, Capt.
Cliff Barrick	Center Field
J. Allen Jumel	Left Field
Pete Romano	Second Base
Buddy Copponex	First Base
Ray Dicharry	Right Field

⁷¹Picture from the private collection of John B. Heroman.

⁷²John B. Heroman, log. cit.

⁷³Athletic Scrap Books in the Catholic High School Library.

Douglas Elwood
 Gabe Jumonville
 Delma Hannaman
 Donald Dietrich
 Louis Collet
 Anthony Salvaggia
 Edward Harelson
 Albert Mercy⁷⁹

Besides winning the state title in 1940, the basketball team won the district title, and the swimming team placed fourth in the state.

Athletics and Brother Peter, S.C. No history of Catholic High School and its athletic activities would be complete without a mention of Brother Peter, the tenth principal of Catholic High School. He served as principal from 1932 to 1938.⁸⁰ The 1932 school session was duly announced by the Baton Rouge newspapers heralding Brother Peter's arrival in the city. Clippings were taken from the newspapers and placed in the athletic scrap books kept in the school library. Taken from one of the clippings is the following:

Brother Peter, the new president of the Catholic high, has had long experience in educational work, and prior to taking charge here late this summer, he had been associated with St. Stanislaus College at Bay St. Louis for 24 years. During this time, however,

⁷⁹Ibid.

⁸⁰Catholic High School Records.

he spent short periods in Baton Rouge with the old St. Vincent's Academy in 1910 and again in 1916. He is widely known throughout the South, and he is vice-president of the Southern Amateur Athletic Union. Some of the most noted football stars at Notre Dame had their training at St. Stanislaus during the years that Brother Peter was at the head of that school.⁸¹

Brother Peter, besides his office as president of Catholic High, took over as athletic director and assisted as basketball coach. His first season as coach is a memorable one. He took his team to Chicago to enter the tenth annual National Catholic Interscholastic Basketball Tournament, of which he was one of the directors. In regular season play that year, 1932, his Catholic High eagles won twelve games and lost three. In the District Tournament, they won four games before bowing out to Iatrouma High School.⁸²

The boys that made the trip to Chicago were: Lee Heroman, center; Maxie Gianelloni, L. C. Heroman, and Cliff Doiron, forwards; Sam Graphia, Charlie D'Agostina, Lynn Dicharry and Joe Michelli, guards. They were beaten in the second round but brought home the sportsmanship trophy, which was indicative of their training under Brother Peter.⁸³

The 1933 basketball team went to the semi-finals in the district, the semi-finals in the state and the quarter-finals in the national Catholic tournament in Chicago. The players making the second Chicago trip were: A. Giganti, P. Roberts, Max Gianelloni, Paul Fasulla, James

⁸¹Athletic Scrap Books, loc. cit.

⁸²Ibid.

⁸³Ibid.

Wall, Buddy Copponex, Marvin Poole, Lloyd Tircuit and Joseph Michelli.⁸⁴

It was during Brother Peter's tenure of office that Catholic High rose in prominence both in education and athletics. Brother Peter's popularity was such that he was friend and confidant of many of the most noted men in the state. This popularity was carried on to the school he represented, giving Catholic High School its name in honored circles.⁸⁵

Brother Peter's interest in athletics was not confined to the basketball court. His influence and interest also built Catholic High into a first rate football power.⁸⁶ He was greatly assisted in this by Coach Dennis "Pete" Burge of Louisiana State University fame and Coach John B. Kleinpeter.⁸⁷ Besides the varsity and junior teams, Cub teams were formed, which included the smaller boys in school. This latter system taught the games to several hundred youngsters, and for many it was their preparation for their own part in later athletics.

W. I. Spencer's column in the State Times is indicative of the Golden Bears' accomplishments at this time, the 1930's.

Many sport pages in the state will carry account this weekend of the accomplishments of two athletic teams of Catholic High School of this city. The sports fans will eye all reports from Chicago that might contain news of the local parochial school's basketball team. Then quite a few will scan the boxing news out of Hammond, where the Southeast Louisiana district tournament starts tonight at Southeastern College.

⁸⁴Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 3, No. 6, April, 1935.

⁸⁵Interview with Brother Berman, Faculty 1936.

⁸⁶Ibid.

⁸⁷Athletic Scrap Books, loc. cit.

The Catholic High basketball team surprised and pleased even the most ardent followers with a first round victory in the National Catholic Interscholastic tournament in Chicago last night. Very near all supporters of the C.H.S. cagers had expected the Bears to play good ball but thought they would drop their initial game.

Brother Peter's team may not advance any further than the first round in the Chicago meet, yet the players have done a lot to awaken interest in sports at their alma mater. Basketball interest will be much keener at Catholic High from now on, and the squads will all work with the idea of making the national tournament.

Behind every "uplifting" movement there is always a "pusher." The "pusher" in Catholic High's "uplifted athletic" case is Brother Peter, the genial principal who came to the school last September from St. Stanislaus College.

Brother Peter has taken a few months to become adjusted in Baton Rouge and learn the ropes. But from now on he will be a positive factor in education and athletic efforts in this city. He teaches every tenet of cleaner play, sportsmanship, and effectiveness in his athletic teams, and at the same time is leading his school forward in educational lines. He should be an absolute success.⁸⁸

The Mothers' Club. On January 20, 1930, Brother Lambert, principal of Catholic High School, organized a group of the students' mothers into a club. This organization was called the "Mothers' Club."⁸⁹ The first officers were:

Mrs. Henry Jolly, President

Mrs. C. A. Weiss, Vice-President

Mrs. M. A. Gianelloni, Secretary

⁸⁸Ibid.

⁸⁹Catholic High School Records, History, Mothers' Club of Catholic High School.

Mrs. M. W. Broussard, Financial Secretary

Mrs. R. B. McCall, Treasurer⁹⁰

Since 1930, there has not been an activity in which this club did not participate. One of their main activities has been preparing hot lunches for the students during the lunch period. They have prepared and served all banquets held at the school. Each year they have given some substantial donation to the school; electric score board for the gym, electric timer for the school bell, faculty automobile, school bus, cafeteria equipment, uniforms, and the financing of various trips, such as those of the basketball team to Chicago.⁹¹

Mrs. R. Langlois was at the time of writing the oldest active member of the Mothers' Club. A charter member in 1930, she has continued to take her turn on Fridays serving the students their hot lunches.

"C" Club. The letterman's club was formed in 1938. Its first president was Lee C. Hannaman of the class of '33.⁹² The purpose of the club, as put forth in their constitution, was "to encourage and foster athletics at Catholic High and to enable its members to continue friendship and team spirit begun during their athletic activities at Catholic High and/or St. Vincent's."⁹³ This organization sponsored the

⁹⁰Ibid.

⁹¹Ibid.

⁹²From the private file of Dr. J. C. Nolan

⁹³"C" Club Constitution, Catholic High School Files.

athletic banquets and aided greatly in the financial burden of the athletic program.

The members of the first "C" Club were: L. Hannaman, President, P. Romano, P. Augusta, T. Giganti, P. Kleinpeter, E. Mansur, G. Kadair, C. Didier, M. Heroman, W. Bernhard, B. Robinson, V. Boudreaux, A. Crifasi, C. Charlet, D. Holden, H. Heroman, G. Abraham, C. Didery, F. McDonald, S. Mansur, C. Landry, F. Roberts, B. Hebert, C. Gussman, M. Jolissaint, J. Bourgeois, M. Gianelloni, C. Landry, D. Jolissaint, R. Didier, E. Dicharry, John Ills, E. Discharry, F. Eisewirth, M. Poole, P. Martin.⁹⁴

This organization did not function during the war years but was reorganized in 1947.⁹⁵

SUMMARY

Thus ended another era in the history of Catholic High School.

The account of the last period from 1921 to 1944 showed a tremendous growth in the physical plant and the educational opportunities afforded the students of St. Vincent's Academy, the forerunner of Catholic High School. In 1928, the new Catholic High School was built to replace the old St. Vincent's Academy, which had served the youth of the Baton Rouge area for thirty-four years.

The enrollment had grown from two hundred students in 1921 to over six hundred students in 1944. The steady growth of the population of

⁹⁴From a picture in Dr. J. C. Nolan's file.

⁹⁵Interview with Mr. G. Kadair, president, 1951.

Baton Rouge was one of the underlying causes of this increase in student population. In keeping with the physical growth of the school, the curriculum was expanded to meet the students' needs. The extra-curricular activities of Catholic High School compared favorably with those of the other Baton Rouge schools during this time. Further evidence of this growth and development was recorded in the fourth and final chapter of this account of the history of Catholic High School.

CHAPTER IV

THE LAST DECADE 1944-1954

The year 1944 terminated fifty years of educational endeavor for youth in the Baton Rouge area. Catholic High School celebrated its golden jubilee in November of 1944. It was from this date that the final chapter of this history was written. Beginning with the golden jubilee celebration, the account of the last decade, 1944-1954, brings up to date the history of Catholic High School.

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Brother Peter, S.C., was named principal of Catholic High School for the session beginning in September, 1944.¹ His appointment as principal for the jubilee year of 1944 was a fitting tribute to the man who brought the name of Catholic High School into the eyes of the public. Even more prominent than at his last appointment to Baton Rouge, his name was known to sports writers and educators all over the nation. As director of the famous Camp Stanislaus, at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, he had attracted international attention.

His annual dinners for visiting newspapermen have been one of the entertainment features of the Sugar Bowl Sports Carnival in past years. He has served usually as host to one of the participating Sugar Bowl football teams.

However, it is for his youth training that Brother Peter is best

¹Catholic High School Records, Roll Book.

known. Civic and benevolent organizations vie for his attendance as an after-dinner speaker.²

It can easily be seen why Baton Rouge welcomed Brother Peter back into its midst. Even more happy were the alumni, students, and faculty of Catholic High School to have the good Brother as the Jubilee Chairman.

The writer was on the faculty at this time and witnessed the preparations being made for the jubilee celebration. Brother Peter, in conjunction with the Alumni Board, made plans for a large religious and civic celebration to be held after the football season in November, 1944.

The Alumni Board for 1944 was made up of the following men:

Brother Peter, Principal
 Dan Barfield, President
 Carol Grouchy, Vice President
 Jack Persao, Treasurer
 Cecil Bird
 Bob Bogan
 Fred S. LeBlanc
 Ree Cangelosi
 Allie Kleinpeter³

The alumni list was gone over, members of the various classes were contacted; pictures, writings and anything connected with St. Vincent's Academy-Catholic High School were gathered. Brother Carol, S.C., faculty

²Golden Bear, (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Catholic High School), Vol. 9, No. 2, November, 1944.

³Ibid.

moderator for the school paper, and the Golden Bear staff took the information gathered, organized it and prepared the golden anniversary edition of the Golden Bear. The resulting issue was a ten-page tabloid giving a brief history of the school, both in writing and in pictures.⁴

During this same year, 1944, a \$10,000.00 renovating job was done on the school buildings. This was done by the Very Rev. Father L. Abel Caillouet, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, who had been appointed after Monsignor Gassler's death in 1943. He was aided in this task by the parishioners of St. Joseph's and the alumni of Catholic High School.⁵ All was in readiness for the November celebration.

November 22, 1944, was the day chosen for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the school. The activities of the day began with a solemn high Mass at St. Joseph's Church. The celebrant of the Mass was the Very Reverend L. Abel Caillouet, Pastor, assisted by Father Francis Lamendola as deacon, and Father Arthur Lioux as subdeacon. Fathers Lamendola and Lioux, as well as Father Earl McLaughlin, the master of ceremonies, were alumni of Catholic High School. Father Caillouet was from the Brothers' school in Thibodaux, Louisiana, Thibodaux College. The sermon was preached by another alumnus of the Brothers' schools, Father Henry Besou, superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and a graduate of St. Aloysius High School of New Orleans.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

His Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph Francis Rummel, S.T.D., Archbishop of New Orleans, graced the ceremony with his presence. He delivered a talk on the fine work done by St. Vincent's Academy-Catholic High School during the past fifty years. One of his statements to the audience by way of congratulations to the school and its faculty was that he had never known a school whose influence was wider known or felt.

The entire student body attended the Mass in their military uniforms. The remainder of the church was crowded with alumni and friends of Catholic High School.

Following the Mass a banquet was held in the school gymnasium for the Archbishop, the local clergy, faculty, visiting priests and Brothers and the Alumni Board. Speakers for the banquet were: Father Maurice Schexnayder, chaplain of the Catholic Student Center at Louisiana State University; James Claitor, representing the alumni in the armed forces; Dan Barfield, president of the Alumni Association; Brother Felician, S.C., speaking for the Brothers of Religious Orders who attended Catholic High; Father Lamendola, for the priest alumni; Brother Peter, principal of Catholic High; Father Caillouet, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, and Archbishop Rummel.⁶

A civic reception and open house was held in the gym-auditorium that same night, November 22, 1944. Between three and four hundred signed the guest register.⁷ At this writing, the register has not been

⁶Ibid.

⁷Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 9, No. 3, February, 1945.

found, though the approximate number was given in the school paper. The Catholic High Band performed for the pleasure of the guests. Refreshments were served by the Catholic High Mothers' Club.

Among the speakers for the evening were: Dan Barfield, president of the Alumni; prominent Baton Rouge citizens, including Andrew Bahlinger and Cecil Bird, alumni; Brother Peter; Father Caillouet; Clarke Barrow, parish superintendent of public schools; and the Honorable W. B. Hatcher, President of Louisiana State University.⁸

Each guest was presented with the anniversary edition of the school publication the Golden Bear. Alumni from years back spent much time in discussing this edition with its pictures and writings bringing back their school days.

A NEW CONTRACT

In 1945, a new contract was drawn up concerning the management of the school, between the pastor of St. Joseph's Church and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, the faculty. The original contract drawn up by Father Laval, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, and Brother Osmond, S.C., representing the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, on September 1, 1894, stated that the Brothers should have exclusive rights to the property on which the school now stands as long as they would keep a school on those grounds.⁹ In 1931, facing the huge debt of construction, Father Cassler

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ New Orleans, La. (Notes, Archives, Brothers of the Sacred Heart.)

asked for a change, whereby Catholic High School would become a parochial school. As a parochial school it would be entirely controlled by St. Joseph's Church in the person of the pastor. It would also be financed by the church. The change was effected, September 1, 1931. The Brothers received a salary of \$750.00 a year. The principal received \$1000.00 a year. The contract was cancelled after a trial of one year.¹⁰ The school was turned back to the Brothers on September 1, 1932.¹¹ This transaction is noted by a letter from Father Cassler, pastor, to Brother Lambert, then the Provincial Superior of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

March 8th, 1932

Dear Brother Lambert:

One week ago we had our second Trustees meeting within four days. The financial situation was thoroughly gone over. I told the Trustees about our conversation in regard of going back to the former system of running the Boys' School. In view of the fact that we must meet \$16,000.00 by the last of July, the Trustees requested me to get in touch with you and offer you the school under the same conditions which obtained prior to this present scholastic term. Having had some experience with actual expenses, I would propose that St. Joseph's parish pay one half of the Janitor's wages.

This arrangement would put your community once more in complete charge of the institution.

F. L. Cassler, Rector¹²

¹⁰Catholic High School Records, File.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²New Orleans, La., Archives.

Difficulties ensuing between the principal and pastor in 1943 culminated in a new contract, whereby Catholic High once more became a parochial school.¹³ The contract was as follows:

The Congregation of the St. Joseph's Church, Baton Rouge, La., represented by its Pastor, Very Rev. L. Abel Caillouet, and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, represented by Brother Peter, S.C., Principal of Catholic High School of Baton Rouge, La., do hereby freely enter upon the following contract regarding the method of operating the above-named school, to-wit:

1. Catholic High School being the property of Saint Joseph's Church is a parochial school. The Pastor of Saint Joseph's Church has full authority over the school. He delegates to the principal of Catholic High School the details of management of the school, with the understanding that the Pastor and the Principal confer and agree on any innovations or changes in policy; that they work in accord and harmony with due respect for each others' positions.
2. The Parish of St. Joseph assumes full responsibility for all repair, alterations and improvements to the buildings and the furnishings. St. Joseph's Parish is responsible for interest payments and the amortization of the indebtedness still resting on the school; in consideration of this two-fold relationship, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart will remit to St. Joseph's Parish the sum of five thousand dollars per year, payable semi-annually on the first day of January and the first day of July.

The Brothers are responsible for the receipts and the expenditures of the school. They will do all in their power to see that proper care be taken of all property, including adequate janitor and engineer service.

3. It will be the obligation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to provide for the Pastor of Saint Joseph's a semi-annual report due on the tenth of January and the tenth of July of each year.
4. If alteration or cancellation of this contract for any ensuing scholastic year is desired by either of the contracting parties, notice of said alteration or cancellation must be given

¹³ Catholic High School Records, File, loc. cit.

by January 15 of the current year. Any change or alteration must be made with the approval of the Most Reverend Archbishop.

For the Congregation of St. Joseph's Church:

Very Rev. L. Abel Caillouet, V.V.
Pastor

For the Brothers of the Sacred Heart:

Brother Peter, S.C.
Principal

Approved:

J. F. Rummel
Archbishop of New Orleans 14

At this writing, the above contract is in honor. Under the new contract, the school was not parochial in the same sense as in 1931. At that time, as stated previously, a yearly salary was paid for each faculty member. With the new contract, no salaries were paid, but the Brothers, from their tuition receipts, paid an annual rental fee of \$5,000.00 to St. Joseph's Parish for the use of the buildings.

The following statement is an itemized report for the six months' period from July 1 to January 1, 1945-1946, which was handed in according to contract.

Expenses:

Utilities	\$	881.08
Music and Prof.		645.03
House Furn. and Rep. . .		654.74
Chapel and Masses		57.21
Servants		1,059.00
Auto and Ins.		189.27
Retreats and Studies . .		314.65

Library and Stat.	\$ 253.23
Coaches	1,600.00
Ath. Equipment	2,642.55
Postage	52.00
Golden Bear	250.84
Chem. Lab.	148.40
Band, Football Trips . . .	<u>442.50</u>

Total \$ 9,230.50

Living Expenses	\$ 4,170.71
Check to Parish	2,500.00
Check to Com'ty.	<u>2,000.00</u>

Total \$17,901.21

Receipts:

Tuition	\$13,162.00
Fees	1,468.00
Music	108.53
Athletics	4,736.00
Candy Shop	<u>241.89</u>

Total \$19,716.41

Less Expend. 17,901.21

Balance \$ 1,815.20

Actual Attendance January 10, 1946

High School:

Seniors 83, Juniors 100, Sophomores 114, Freshmen 43	
Total . .	340

Grammar Schools:

Eighth Grade 62, Seventh Grade 88, Sixth Grade 75,	
Fifth Grade 77, Fourth Grade 40	
Total . .	342

Grand Total . . 686

Non-Catholic Boys in Catholic High School . . . 86

Respectfully submitted

January 9, 1946¹⁵

ENROLLMENT

The popularity of Catholic High School continued to grow. The year prior to Brother Peter's return as principal saw over one hundred boys refused admittance because of overcrowded conditions in the classrooms.¹⁶ The enrollment in 1944 was the largest in history, 710 students.¹⁷ After studying the conditions, the pastor and the principal decided to drop one of the lower elementary grades each year and turn this grade over to the Sisters of St. Joseph in the elementary school next door. This move gave more room space to the high school department. Successively, the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades were dropped. By 1950, the school was a four-year senior high school with a two-year junior high school department.¹⁸

Table VII shows the enrollment for the last ten years of this history, from 1944 to 1954, bringing the present record up to date. The decrease in enrollment was brought about by the dropping of the elementary grades mentioned above and allocating some of the facilities therefor to

¹⁵Catholic High School Records, File, log. cit.

¹⁶Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 8, No. 1, October, 1943.

¹⁷Catholic High School Records, File, log. cit.

¹⁸Ibid.

TABLE VII
STUDENT ENROLLMENT (1944-1954)¹⁹

Scholastic Year	Enrollment
1944-45	699
1945-46	710
1946-47	663
1947-48	616
1948-49	626
1949-50	644
1950-51	584
1951-52	587
1952-53	541
1953-54	528

¹⁹Catholic High School Records, File, log. sit.

the Sisters of St. Joseph. Under the new system, there were only two eighth grades and one seventh grade for the junior high department.²⁰

The extra rooms were used for the high school.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum for the high school department did not undergo great changes in the ten years from 1944-1954. A few new subjects were added. The changes that were brought about were in the field of experience activities that greatly enriched the subject matter. The ninth and tenth grades followed a general course, and in the eleventh and twelfth, the students were organized into the general and academic courses. It was the purpose of the school that all of its students have at least one year of typing. The curriculum of 1953-54 is shown below.²¹ Those subjects followed by an asterisk indicate elective subjects. This selection of subjects marked with the asterisk placed the student in the academic course.

Ninth Grade

Religion I
English I
Algebra I
Civics
General Science

Tenth Grade

Religion II
English II
Plane Geometry
World History
French I *
Spanish I *
Latin I *
Typing *

²⁰Catholic High School Records, File, log. cit.

²¹Ibid.

Eleventh Grade

Religion III
 English III
 Algebra II
 World Geography
 Typing *
 Chemistry *
 Business Law
 Economics

Twelfth Grade

Religion IV
 English IV
 Solid Geometry *
 Trigonometry *
 Bookkeeping
 Commercial Arithmetic
 Physics *
 American History

In September, 1953 the plan was adopted in conjunction with the Baton Rouge Trade School, whereby boys could attend regular classes in the morning at Catholic High School and attend the Baton Rouge Trade School in the afternoon. All grades and credits were sent to the school office at Catholic High at the end of each regular term.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The following section is devoted to the activities that brought about the enrichment of the subject matter of the curriculum mentioned above.

The Guidance Program. The guidance program was officially

incorporated into the schedule in September of the 1953-1954 school session.²² Prior to this time, guidance was carried on by the home room teacher during the religion period, the first period in the morning. Contrary to popular belief, the religion period was not a period for the expounding of dogma alone. A great amount of moral guidance and social and civic development was accomplished in this period. Career Days were

²²Ibid.

Catholic High School

Baton Rouge

Louisiana



Melvin H. Didier

Having completed in a satisfactory manner the regular Course of Study
registered for the High School Department is entitled to receive this

Diploma

Date of Award

May 30, 1944

By Principal

Robert C. Galloway
Principal

Brother C. Galloway
Principal

FIGURE 4

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OF MELVIN DIDIER

established for the student body in 1950 and were continued up to the present.²³ On these days, men from varied professions and walks of life were invited to the school to address the student body in general assembly. Several sessions were held during the day. Following the assembly, the student body divided into smaller groups and according to their interests questioned the various speakers. No attempt at follow-up was made.

The guidance program, inaugurated in September of 1953, provided a more thorough program for the students. Special vocational guidance classes were held for each class at least once a week. The discussion procedure was used. A guidance office and occupational and vocational library were set up. Before class in the morning, the students could make use of the office and library to shop for ideas and discuss their interests and problems.

Music. The music department provided much of the cultural activities of the school. The band made its appearance at athletic events, parades and festive occasions when they were called on to perform for the public. Twice each year, the semi-annual band concerts were held in the school gym-auditorium. In 1951, the music program was expanded to include a glee club and group singing.²⁴ This program was brought about with the coming of Monsignor H. P. Lehman, who was named

²³Golden Sear, op. cit., Vol. 15, No. 5, April, 1951.

²⁴Golden Sear, op. cit., Vol. 16, No. 2, November, 1951.

pastor of St. Joseph's Church, to succeed Monsignor L. A. Caillouet, who became the new auxilliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans in 1950.²⁵ The new pastor urged the Brothers to include this singing as a part of the cultural education of the school.

The program was inaugurated and practice sessions held. The student body took part in music festivals and the singing of high Mass in St. Joseph's Church. For special occasions, the singers having been graded for quality and tone, the better ones were chosen for participation. Popular music and the ancient Gregorian Chant were studied.

On March 25 and 26, 1954, Catholic High School was host to the Louisiana unit of the National Catholic Music Educators Association in a formal convention.²⁶ Both the band and the singers took an active part in the convention.

The Civics Club. In 1951, the civics students received practical democratic demonstration through a regular political campaign, election and legislative session, all held on the campus and all conducted by the students themselves with encouraging guidance from the faculty.

The civics students became members of the newly organized Catholic High Boys' State. Regular campaigning and election activities were held for a two-week period. Parish and state officials were elected. Perry Johnson, '54, was elected the first governor in 1951. Official voting machines were borrowed for election day.

²⁵Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 15, No. 5, April, 1951.

²⁶News item in the Morning Advocate, March 27, 1954.

Inaugurations were held in the gym-auditorium. Among other outstanding political figures who addressed the students during the course of Boys' State were: Governor Kennon, Senator Long, Sheriff Bryan Clemmons, and Wade O. Martin, Jr., Secretary of State.²⁷

Each year the civics students were given the opportunity to visit the Mayor-President's office, the Sheriff's office, spend a day at Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Louisiana, and visit other places and institutions that would cause the students to be more civic minded.

French Day. In April, 1954 the French class inaugurated French Day. Posters in French, French newspapers and periodicals, pictures of France, and the French flag were prominently displayed on the campus. The students dressed as Parisians and were called on to translate the papers and posters. A French program was broadcast to the school over the public address system by a selected group from the French class.

The Student Spiritual Organization. The entire student body formed the Student Spiritual Organization. From the entire group, an executive committee was formed to carry on the meetings held every two weeks. Committees were formed from the student body, and these in turn were headed by one of the members of the executive committee. This organization, the outgrowth of the Sodality which had its beginning at

²⁷Notes from the private collection of Brother Barry, S.C., Civics Teacher, 1951-1953.

the foundation of the school, began its formal operation in October, 1953. The purpose of the organization was for better Christian living among its members. Discussions and debates formed an important part of the meetings. The parliamentary procedure was employed. Members attended conventions in Mobile and New Orleans.

The Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, a part of the organization, was a part of the National Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, and each year some of its members attended the National Catholic Students' Mission Crusade Convention held at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana.

In April, 1953, J. Clifton Hill, president of the Catholic High student organization, was elected president of the spiritual organizations of the schools of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. In March, 1954, Stuart Voorhies, of the Catholic High School organization, was elected vice-president of the same group.

The Golden Bear. The literary efforts of the students were well rewarded in 1951, when their school publication, The Golden Bear, achieved the "All American" rating for the scholastic year 1950-1951.²⁸

The Bruin. In 1948, the school publication, The Golden Bear, added another publication to its repertoire, an annual, called the Bruin. The Bruin was a pictorial review of the year. The staff for the first Bruin was: Brother Remigius, S.C., faculty moderator; Edmund Bishop, editor; Tommy Steinbach, assistant editor; Charles Bahlinger, business

²⁸ Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 16, No. 1, October, 1951.

manager; Joe Corsentino, Tommy Calvit, Harold Rabalais, Manny Wilkinson, Ed Martinez, and John Munson.²⁹

The Military. The student military training program came to a close with the end of the scholastic year 1945-1946. This year also proved to be the most successful in the program. Fourteen uniformed cadet officers from Catholic High School's Student Military Training Corps participated in the annual high school military training program at Louisiana State University, in January, 1945.³⁰ In speaking to Cadet Major Babin, one of the army officers at the three day convention remarked, "Major, I've seen your unit in formation, and you're certainly to be complimented on the fine marching ability and the excellent disciplinary spirit of the boys that rules among the ranks of your regiment."³¹ Further comment was added by Captain Lewis, United States Army, concerning the distinguishing insignia worn by the Catholic High School officers.

To add interest to the military program, two formal military balls were held during the year. The military program during its existence proved very helpful in general discipline and high spirit among the students.

²⁹The Bruin, (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Catholic High School), Annual, Volume I, 1948.

³⁰Golden Bear, op. cit., Vol. 9, No. 3, February, 1945.

³¹Ibid.

Social Activities. The dances held by the military, the spiritual organization, and the school offered much to organized social activities. The social event of the year remained the coronations held for the high school and the grammar school. The gymnasium was elaborately decorated according to an appropriate theme set for the occasion.

The junior-senior prom was another social event of prominence, with the junior class sponsoring the prom.

Other events bringing the students together were teen-age fashion shows, such as the one sponsored by Dalton's department store in December, 1953, and the variety show sponsored by the Mothers' Club in February, 1954.

Athletics. Athletics continued on a high plane at Catholic High School. The school sponsored such sporting events as football, basketball, baseball and track. Occasionally, swimming and golf were sponsored when there was enough interest in these events.

The football team, never a champion, gave a good account of itself on the gridiron. The team earned for itself the respect of its conference foes. Recently, January, 1954, Catholic High School was invited and became a charter member of the Louisiana Big Twelve Conference. With the enrollment in the high school increasing, the school looks for better and better seasons to come.

In basketball, the Golden Bears have always been a contender. In recent years, 1950 and 1951, they were the Southeast district champions.

the world about them, and others to continue in education, according to their various callings. Only three young men graduated in 1897. At the present writing, there are 2,566 alumni.

During the last ten years, Catholic High School became a junior-senior high school. The lower elementary grades were gradually dropped until the present junior-senior system emerged. This brought about a decrease in the total enrollment, though the enrollment in the high school department increased. At the present writing, there are 450 boys in the high school department.

It was also during the last decade that the general activities of the student body were increased, thereby greatly enhancing the spiritual, the educational, the cultural and social opportunities offered the students. The ten year period, ending with June, 1954, was, therefore, a term of progress in several directions.

Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel of New Orleans, by way of summing up his congratulatory address at the golden jubilee celebration on November 22, 1944, stated, "I have never known a school to wield such influence over a state as Catholic High School of Baton Rouge." The alumni, past and present, have shared this opinion and look back on their Alma Mater with love and respect, recalling their student days at "good old St. Vincent's Academy" or "good old Catholic High."

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Mr. John B. Heroman, Class '93.

Mr. George Kadair, Class '38.

Mr. Melvin Didier, Class '44.

Mr. Cecil Bird, 1891, First St. Vincent's Academy.

APPENDIX

Brother Wilfrid, S.C., Faculty 1916.

Brother Benedict, S.C., Faculty 1929.

Brother Berman, S.C., Faculty 1936.

Brother Linus, S.C., Faculty 1932-1940.

Brother Cornelius, S.C., Faculty 1924.

Mr. Brantley Fourrier, Class '98.

APPENDIX A

FACULTIES OF ST. VINCENT'S ACADEMY-

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- 1891-1892 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Urban, Raymond, Artus.
- 1894-1895 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Arthur, Firmin, David.
- 1895-1896 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Arthur, Firmin, Arsenius.
- 1896-1897 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Arthur, Theodore, Firmin (sick), Ignatius, Emeric, Arsenius, Raymond.
- 1897-1898 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Emeric, Arthur, Ludovic, Adelard, Theodore. Brother Lambert to Bay St. Louis.
- 1898-1899 Brother Felix, Principal. Brother Emeric, Arthur, Alfred, Firmin, Adelard. Brothers Donald and David.
- 1899-1900 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Emeric, David, Justinian, Adelard.
- 1900-1901 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Fernand, David, Justinian.
- 1901-1902 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Adelard, David, Justinian.
- 1902-1903 Brother Felix, Principal. Brothers Adelard, David, Justinian.
- 1903-1904 Brother Macarius, Principal. Brothers Adelard, David, Justinian, Simon.
- 1904-1905 Brother Macarius, Principal. Brothers Ludovic, Martin, Simon.
- 1905-1906 Brother Macarius, Principal. Brothers Ludovic, Thomas, Simon.
- 1906-1907 Brother Fabian, Principal. Brothers George, Ludovic, Thomas, Victorian.
- 1907-1908 Brother Fabian, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Ludovic, Benedict, Basil, Victorian.
- 1908-1909 Brother Matthias, Principal. Brothers Ludovic, Vincent, Victorian, Brother Gustave replaced Brother Ludovic.

- 1909-1910 Brother Matthias, Principal. Brothers Arsenius, Peter, Adrian. Brothers Hubert and Vincent were assigned to the faculty but were changed.
- 1910-1911 Brother Matthias, Principal. Brothers Arsenius, Eugene, Leo.
- 1911-1912 Brother Charles, Principal. Brothers Eugene, Gregory, Anselm. Brother Gregory changed with Brother Hilary on January 6, 1912.
- 1912-1913 Brother Charles, Principal. Brothers Columban, Rodriguez, Hilary, Herbert. Brother Girard replaced Brother Herbert on February 13, 1913.
- 1913-1914 Brother Charles, Principal. Brothers Columban, Hubert, Theodore, Cornelius.
- 1914-1915 Brother Charles, Principal. Brothers Columban, Hubert, Theodore, Cornelius. Brother Theodore died February 9, 1915. He was replaced by Brother Girard.
- 1915-1916 Brother Charles, Principal. Brothers Robert, Hubert, Dominic, Benedict, Cornelius.
- 1916-1917 Brother Charles, Principal. Brothers Hubert, Peter, Norbert, Cornelius, Dominic. Brother Conrad replaced Brother Norbert before school opened. Brother Peter was replaced by Brother Wilfrid. Brother Theodorus replaced Brother Charles on account of serious illness. Brother Simon replaced Brother Conrad. Brother Celestine was added to the faculty.
- 1917-1918 Brother Isidore, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Ignatius, Hubert, Emmanuel, Cornelius, Simon.
- 1918-1919 Brother Isidore, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Florimond, Emmanuel, Theodore, Daniel. Brother Cornelius replaced Brother Theodore in February.
- 1919-1920 Brother Isidore, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Florimond, Emmanuel, Cornelius, Conrad. Brother Denis replaced Brother Conrad on March 6, 1920.
- 1920-1921 Brother Louis Emile, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Celsus, Cornelius, Denis.
- 1921-1922 Brother Louis Emile, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Gilbert, Cyril, Denis.

- 1922-1923 Brother Louis Emile, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Oswald, Cyril, Arnold. Brother Osmond replaced Brother Oswald on February 10, 1923.
- 1923-1924 Brother Columban, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Bertrand, Cornelius, Arnold.
- 1924-1925 Brother Lambert, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Bertrand, Cornelius, Patrick, Arnold.
- 1925-1926 Brother Lambert, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Celsus, Cornelius, James, Simeon, Arnold.
- 1926-1927 Brother Lambert, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Augustin, Cornelius, James, Arnold.
- 1927-1928 Brother Lambert, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Celsus, Bernard, Cornelius, Ralph, James, Arnold.
- 1928-1929 Brother Lambert, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Celsus, Bernard, Cornelius, Ralph, James, Arnold.
- 1929-1930 Brother Lambert, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Celsus, Basil, Cornelius, James, Carl, Arnold.
- 1930-1931 Brother Paul, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Adelard, Athanasius, Coleman, Gerard, James, Carl, Arnold, Arsenius. Brother William replaced Brother Adelard on account of illness. Brother Ambrose replaced Brother William.
- 1931-1932 Brother Paul, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Bernard, Athanasius, Urban, Carl, Florent, Fidelis, Arnold, Arsenius. Brother Columban replaced Brother Bernard on account of illness. Brother Oliver replaced Brother Athanasius. Brother Ralph replaced Brother Urban on account of illness.
- 1932-1933 Brother Peter, Principal. Brothers Cyprian, Robert, Aloysius, Oliver, Carl, Florent, Fidelis, Arnold, Arsenius.
- 1933-1934 Brother Peter, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Robert, Aloysius, Berchmans, Hubert, Fidelis, Florent, Victorian, Arnold, Arsenius, Linus. Brother Boris replaced Brother Victorian. Mr. Pete Burge.

- 1934-1935 Brother Peter, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Robert, Brendon, Linus, Albert, Bernon, Celestine, Oliver, Marius, Florant, Alton, Boris, Arnold, Arsenius. Brother Claude replaced Brother Brendon. Mr. Pete Burge.
- 1935-1936 Brother Peter, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Robert, Edmund, Linus, Bernon, Claude, Borgia, Timothy, Oliver, Marius, Giles, Cosmas, Alton, Camille, Justinian, Arsenius. Mr. Pete Burge.
- 1936-1937 Brother Peter, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Robert, Linus, Roger, Berchmans, Borgia, Timothy, Giles, Oliver, Claude, Marius, Alton, Camille, Stanislaus, Marvin, Justinian, Arsenius. Brother Colman replaced Brother Borgia and Brother Roy replaced Brother Arsenius. Mr. Pete Burge.
- 1937-1938 Brother Peter, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Robert, Oliver, Berchmans, Linus, Donald, Colman, Claude, Charles, Giles, Marius, Alton, Camille, Stanislaus, Marvin, Roy, Justinian. Brother Carl replaced Brother Colman in February. Mr. Pete Burge.
- 1938-1939 Brother Macarius, Principal. Brothers Adelard, Oliver, Linus, Berchmans, Donald, Carl, Giles, Marius, Cosmas, Albert, Milton, John, Luke, Alfred, Philip, Roy, Edwin, Reginald, Justinian. Brother Lucian replaced Brother Reginald on February 26. Brother Benet replaced Brother Donald on January 30. Brother Andre replaced Brother Milton during the Christmas holidays. Mr. Pete Burge.
- 1939-1940 Brother Macarius, Principal. Brothers Linus, Albert, Berchmans, Carl, Oliver, Aloysius, Giles, Cosmas, Luke, John, Alfred, Allen, Philip, Raymond, Xavier, Andre, Herman, Justinian, Neil, William Henry, Mr. Ralph Springer.
- 1940-1941 Brother Macarius, Principal. Brothers Linus, Albert, Benedict, Berchmans, Carl, Oliver, Giles, Cosmas, Luke, Alfred, Allen, Raymond, Andre, Lloyd, Gordian, Neil, Herman, Eric, Justinian, William Henry.
- 1941-1942 Brother Casimir, Principal. Brothers Linus, Oliver, Cosmas, Carol, Maximin, Benedict, Albert, Leopold, Alfred, Andre, Allen, Lloyd, Gordian, Reginald, Owen, Austin, Kostka, Stephen, Justinian. Mr. Ralph Springer.

- 1942-1943 Brother Casimir, Principal. Brothers Benedict, Cosmas, Julius, Albert, Maximin, Oliver, Leopold, Carl, Alfred, Lloyd, Xavier, Andre, Lucian, Gordian, Owen, Austin, Damian, Geoffrey, Justinian, William Henry.
- 1943-1944 Brother Casimir, Principal. Brothers Benedict, Cosmas, Wilfrid, Albert, Maximin, Oliver, Roger, Roy, Lloyd, Ronan, Andre, Gordian, Geoffrey, Austin, Herman, Evan, Sigmund, Justinian, Joseph, Baylon, William Henry, Marvin.
- 1944-1945 Brother Peter, Principal. Brothers Benedict, Giles, Wilfrid, Maximin, Oliver, Carol, Roy, Ivan, Gordian, Geoffrey, Leo, Austin, Elphege, Evan, Sigmund, Alphonsus, Victorian, Justinian, William Henry.
- 1945-1946 Brother Peter, Principal. Brothers Benedict, Giles, Wilfrid, Maximin, Oliver, Carol, Roy, Ronan, Gordian, Geoffrey, Austin, James, Bartel, Alvin, Evan, Sigmund, Alphonsus, Cury, Leon, Justinian, William Henry.
- 1946-1947 Brother Casimir, Principal. Brother Benedict, Wilfrid, Maximin, Aquinas, Ralph, Roger, Alvin, Carol, Roy, Alphonse, Roderic, James, Regis, Sigmund, Michael, Rian, Luke, Terence, Justinian, William Henry. Mr. V. J. Gianelloni.
- 1947-1948 Brother Casimir, Principal. Brothers Remigius, Colman, Alvin, Clifford, Kostka, Luke, Martial, Michael, Neil, Quintin, Ralph, Rian, Roger, Ronan, Sigmund, Stanley, Terence, William Henry. Mr. V. J. Gianelloni.
- 1948-1949 Brother Casimir, Principal. Brothers Colman, Remigius, Alvin, Camille, Constantius, Foster, Hubert, Jogues, Justinian, Kenneth, Kostka, Leon, Leonard, Joachim, Neil, Ronan, Sebastian, Walter, William Henry, Mr. Edward Harelson.
- 1949-1950 Brother Benedict, Principal. Brothers Colman, Wilfrid, Camille, Allen, Barry, Cecil, Clarence, Constantius, Edwin, Flavian, Foster, Hubert, Joachim, Jogues, Justinian, Kostka, Philip, Quintin, William Henry. Mr. Edward Harelson, Mr. Melvin Didier.
- 1950-1951 Brother Benedict, Principal. Brothers Nicholas, Wilfrid, Roderick, Philip, Francis, Donnan, Sherwin, Edugene, Kostka, Constantius, Allen, Barry, Jogues, Clarence, Edwin, Quintin, Mr. Edward Harelson, Mr. Melvin Didier.

- 1951-1952 Brother Benedict, Principal. Brothers Nicholas, Roderick, Wilfrid, Malachy, Elbert, Arthur, Quintin, Barry, Allen, Hubert, Donnan, Cyran, Juan, Edwin, Jogues, Sherwin, Mr. Edward Harelson, Mr. Melvin Didier.
- 1952-1953 Brother Benedict, Principal. Brothers Nicholas, Elbert, Camillus, Wilfrid, Arthur, Quintin, Malachy, Evan, Alcuin, Cyr, Allen, Barry, Jogues, Edwin, Clarence, Canisius, Mr. Edward Harelson, Mr. Melvin Didier.
- 1953-1954 Brother Benedict, Principal. Brothers Nicholas, Elbert, Malachy, Evan, Alcuin, Miguel, Barry, Virgil, Canisius, Charles, Conan, Briant, Lucien, Raynor, Quintin, Wilfrid, Austin, Mr. Ray Coates, Mr. Melvin Didier. Brother Lionel replaced Brother Briant during the Christmas holidays. Brother Clifford replaced Brother Charles during the Christmas holidays. Brother Carol replaced Brother Benedict as principal due to serious illness.

APPENDIX B

BOND ISSUE FOR FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, BATON ROUGE, 1928

\$300,000.00
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, BATON ROUGE, LA.
FIRST MORTGAGE 5% SERIAL BONDS

Dated May 1, 1928

Due Serially 1930-1949

COUPON bonds in denominations of \$1,000.00 or \$500.00, or in denominations to suit purchaser. Interest due semi-annually payable at _____. Callable as a whole, or in part, at 102 and accrued interest on any semi-annual interest payment dates upon two weeks published notice.

MATURITIES

\$10,000.00 due May 1, 1930.	\$10,000.00 due May 1, 1940.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1931.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1941.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1932.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1942.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1933.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1943.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1934.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1944.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1935.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1945.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1936.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1946.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1937.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1947.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1938.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1948.
10,000.00 due May 1, 1939.	10,000.00 due May 1, 1949.

PURPOSE OF ISSUE

RETIRING \$23,000.00 indebtedness of St. Joseph's Parish and for the erection of a school and gymnasium for boys, and a residence for the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, who will have charge of the school. All construction fire-proof and costing approximately as follows:

School Building - - - - -	\$ 80,220.00	
Gymnasium - - - - -	112,380.00	
Residence - - - - -	49,880.00	
Equipment and Incidentals - - - - -	34,520.00	\$277,000.00

SECURITY

FIRST mortgage on St. Joseph's Catholic Church and land, and also land directly adjacent and improvements thereon, measuring 180 feet on Main St., by 210 feet on Church St., also property on which the three buildings are to be erected beginning at the intersection of College Ave., and North St., and running westerly along the north side of North St., to a point beyond the intersection of Church and North Sts., a distance of 505 feet, running in a northerly direction along the west side of College Ave., for 214½ feet. Title deed to the ground on which the buildings are to be erected was granted to St. Joseph's Church for religious, school or charitable purposes by the 52nd Congress, July 16, 1892 (Recorded in Chap. 1124, first Session, Vo. 27, Page 234).

VALUATION

THE property securing this issue is valued at \$727,000.00 apportioned as follows:

Church and ground on which situated, and adjacent land and improvements - - - - -	\$350,000.00	
Three New Buildings, Equipment and Incidentals - - - - -	277,000.00	
Property on which buildings will be erected - - - - -	100,000.00	\$727,000.00

BORROWER

THESE bonds, in the opinion of counsel, is the direct obligations of the Congregation of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Parish of East Baton Rouge, which is under the supervision of Most Reverend Archbishop John A. Shaw, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese, New Orleans, La., and a Board of Trustees. He will sign each of the bonds of this issue.

INCOME

ACCORDING to the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, the total ordinary receipts for 1927 were \$23,000.00. Additional funds will be derived from special collections, donations and monthly contributions. \$207,000.00 was raised by subscription and spent for improvements made during the past three years.

THE CONGREGATION

THE actual membership of the congregation of St. Joseph's Church is 3,750. Weekly attendance of adults approximately 2,600.

OTHER DETAILS

AMPLE fire and tornado insurance will be carried on the property and deposited with the Trustees for the benefit of the Bond Holders.

TITLE and examination will be at the expense of St. Joseph's Congregation.

THE bonds are to be prepared at the expense of the purchaser.

THE bidder may stipulate a lower rate of interest; reduce time to 15 years, say payable \$10,000.00 per year, beginning 1930, balance 15th year, if a better bid can be made.

THE bids must be addressed to Rev. F. L. Gassler, Secretary, 423 Main St., Baton Rouge, La., and a certified check for 5% of bid must accompany each bid, and must be submitted by Monday, April 16, 1928, before 3 p.m.

THE bidder acknowledges in submitting bid that the Finance Committee has the right to reject any or all bids.

F. L. GASSLER, Secretary,
Board of Trustees, Congregation of St. Joseph's
Roman Catholic Church, Parish of East Baton Rouge.

HECKMAN
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JUNE 99

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